

Keep Calm and Marry On

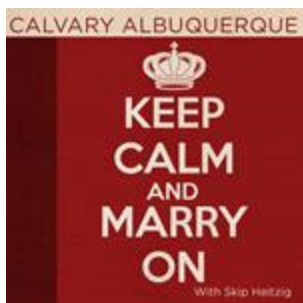
Skip Heitzig

A Christian marriage is intended to portray Christ and His church to the world. But how do we ensure that our marriages live up to God's standards? God's Word contains what we need not only to flourish, but to overcome the emotional, societal, and spiritual attacks we face in our marriages. In this series, Pastor Skip Heitzig covers various scriptural texts to give us the biblical view on marriage. From dating to dealing with in-laws; from anger management to managing your finances; from conflict resolution to delightful sexual relations, this powerful series will provide the tools you need to strengthen your home and relationships.

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SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	No Man Is An Island
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 2:18-22
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2216

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Welcome to a new series! If you're presently not married, *don't tune out!* You may be someday and it will be worth the investment to listen and learn. If you are married, this will provide needed affirmation of your marriage vows. Let's make a deal—let's decide that it's not enough to just survive in our marriages; let's aim to thrive in them. To do that, we have to revisit God's original design and plan for this foundational relationship.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Islands
 1. *Gilligan's Island*
 - a. Three seasons
 - b. Seven castaways attempting to survive shipwreck
 - c. Theme: escape from the island
 2. Marriage: God's idea to help us escape the island of self and its highest values
 - a. Personal freedom
 - b. Personal pleasure
 - c. All born in that state
 - d. Often return to that island: guarded, let no one in
 - B. Discoveries made when married
 1. Before marriage, wonderful
 - a. Do what like to do
 - b. All decisions seem great
 - c. Clean as they need to be
 2. After marriage, discover not all wonderful
 - a. Friction when two lives put together
 - b. Every person on earth incompatible with every other person eventually
 - C. Keep Calm and Marry On
 1. Borrowed from "Keep Calm and Carry On"
 - a. World War II British phrase
 - b. Prevent the demoralization of the British people
 - c. King George VI represented by the crown on posters
 - d. Hope calm experienced on the inside would help people endure the war on the outside
 2. Purpose
 - a. Marriage is the foundation of society

- b. War on marriage
 - i. By social institutions
 - ii. By educational institutions
 - iii. By political institutions
 - iv. By religious institutions
 - v. Undermining by redefining
 - c. Christian couples struggling
 - i. Emulating the world
 - ii. Divorce rate among believers almost identical to the world
 - d. Church is oddly silent about issues the world is very vocal about
 - i. Fidelity
 - ii. Sexuality
 - iii. Homosexuality
 - 3. Billboard promotion: Sex, Love & Self-control
 - a. Taken from: Sex, Drugs & Rock and Roll
 - b. Not sensationalist
 - c. Frame sex in its proper context
 - 4. For the unmarried
 - a. Not married yet
 - b. Divorced
 - c. Widowed
 - d. Topic may not speak directly to your personal situation; all principles apply to all of us
 - e. Help others
- D. Genesis 2:18-22—Passage of Primary reference
 - 1. Referenced four times in New Testament
 - 2. First time God said anything about this issue
 - 3. Marriage is God's idea
 - a. Not manmade
 - b. Only God can regulate it
 - c. "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:6)

II. The Problem of Man: *Alone on an Island* (v.18a)

A. What WAS Good

- 1. Sixfold refrain
 - a. God made something
 - b. God saw it was good
- 2. "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good" (Genesis 1:31)
- 3. Details
 - a. Simplicity
 - i. Relationship between Adam and God
 - ii. One prohibition
 - iii. Perfect environment: paradise
 - b. Responsibility

B. What WASN'T Good

- 1. Attention-getting contrast

- a. Hebrew construction places "not good" at the beginning of the sentence for emphasis
 - b. Not good, not good is man alone
- 2. That man should be alone
 - a. Impossible to fulfill his commission: "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth" (Genesis 1:28)
 - b. Social dimension
 - i. More to humans than physicality
 - ii. He created us to have fellowship with Him and to have interaction with others
 - iii. "The human being is the only species that can't survive alone. The human being needs another human being." –Dr. Leonard Cammer
 - iv. Isolation is not the divine norm: community is
 - v. "For in the image of God He made man" (Genesis 9:6)
 - a. Triunity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - b. Social, interacting together
 - c. Jewish commentator: "Whoever has not wife exists without goodness, without a helpmate, without joy, without blessing, without atonement, without well being, without a full life...indeed, such a one reduces the representation of the divine image on earth."
- 3. Singleness according to the Bible
 - a. It is okay to be single
 - b. Single people fulfill an important role
 - c. Marriage is the norm: the foundational building block of society
 - d. Marriage is not the only good
 - i. Joseph became the prime minister of Egypt and saved the world from famine as a single person
 - ii. Daniel was a confidant to the king of the world, Nebuchadnezzar, as a single person
 - iii. Elijah the prophet stood for God against idolatry as a single person
 - iv. Amos brought the nation back on track as a single person
 - v. John the Baptist, forerunner of Christ: "Among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11)
 - vi. Paul the apostle, writer of much of the New Testament, greatest missionary: we believe he was a single person
 - vii. Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, accomplished redemption of mankind as a single person
 - e. It is impossible to believe that the same God who permitted His own son to die a bachelor regards singleness as wrong. –H.L. Mencken
 - f. Singleness requires a calling and a giftedness
 - i. Like being married requires a calling and gift
 - ii. Jesus spoke of singleness as a gift (see Matthew 19:10-12)
 - iii. Those who don't want that gift don't dread it
 - g. Singles fill a crucial roll
 - h. "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" (Philippians 4:11)

- i. If you are discontent as a single person, you will be discontent as a married person
 - ii. About you and your character, not about your circumstances
 - i. "Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor" (Ecclesiastes 4:9)
 - 4. Science of community
 - a. Healthier life
 - b. Strengthens the immune system
 - c. Mitigates depression
- III. The Plan of God: *Rescue from the Island* (vv.18b-22)
 - A. A Helper Is Needed
 - 1. Sounds pathetic in English: not romantic or impressive
 - 2. Hebrew: עֵזֶר; ezer: to supply something crucially lacking; usually designated for God
 - a. "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1)
 - b. "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh" (Exodus 18:4)
 - c. "Behold, God is my helper" (Psalm 54:4)
 - B. A Comparable Helper Is Needed
 - 1. Suitable
 - 2. Matching
 - 3. Literally: A helper like opposite him
 - a. The wife the corresponding counterpart
 - b. Something that completes a polarity
 - a. North Pole/South Pole
 - b. Negative/positive
 - c. A helper who will complete him; help him meet maximum fulfillment
 - d. Opposites attract: fulfill what is lacking
 - 4. Animals didn't provide what was lacking
 - 5. Some love dogs more than people
 - a. Dog is man's best friend
 - b. Article in *Time Magazine* "Do We Love Dogs More Than People?"
 - . Organic dog food
 - i. Puppy Prozac
 - ii. Dress them in fine clothes
 - iii. Athlete \$12 million trust fund for dog
 - C. A God-Appointed Comparable Help Is Needed
 - 1. God is the Father of the bride, bringing her to the man
 - 2. Miracle of God
 - a. Anesthesiologist: deep sleep
 - b. Surgeon: opened his side
 - c. Healer: bringing flesh together and waking him up
 - 3. "The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved."—Matthew Henry

4. "If man is the head, she (woman is the crown), a crown to her husband."—
Matthew Henry
5. Marriage God's plan to address separation, isolation, aloneness: but it doesn't always work
 - a. It should
 - b. It can
 - c. It's designed to work
 - d. As humans, we tend to want to go back to the island
 - e. Marriage can cure aloneness, or accentuate it
 - f. The extent that your partner is alone in the marriage is the extent that your marriage is failing
 - g. Relationship between a husband and wife is to be a picture of the relationship God wants to have with His people
 - . All people have loneliness meant to be filled in relationship with Christ
 - i. Vertical connection with God is necessary

Hebrew terms: עֵזֶר; ezer: to supply something crucially lacking

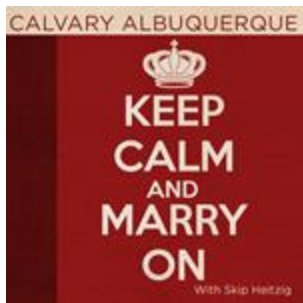
Publications referenced: *Gilligan's Island*; "Do We Love Dogs More Than People?" *Time Magazine*

Figures referenced: King George VI; Dr. Leonard Cammer; H.L. Mencken; Matthew Henry

Cross references: Genesis 1:28; Genesis 1:31; Genesis 9:6; Exodus 18:4; Psalm 46:1; Psalm 54:4; Ecclesiastes 4:9; Matthew 11:11; Matthew 19:6; Matthew 19:10-12; Philippians 4:11

Topic: Singlehood

Keywords: Single, singlehood, singleness, marriage



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	The First Wedding
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 2:23-25
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2218

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Today we go back in time to the first wedding—the *prototype*. The Divine Architect had something specific in mind when He established marriage. Before the days of ancient polygamy, before the days of male chauvinism and neo-feminism, before the days of no-fault divorce and pre-nuptial agreements was the simplicity of God and His creation. There He brought a man and woman together. What did He want this relationship to be like?

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. "A successful marriage is not a gift; it's an achievement." – Ann Landers
 1. Investment: Deposit into it before your withdraw from it
 2. Irony: In 1975, Ann Landers wrote on what would have been her 36th anniversary, with no answer to why her own marriage ended in divorce
- B. Statistics high
 1. Difficult to determine exact numbers
 - a. Vary by region
 - b. Vary by demographic
 2. As many as 50% of marriages end in divorce
 3. Marriage a hard sell
 - a. Like a car broken down half the time
 - b. Phone service that drops half the calls
 - c. Restaurant with 50% mortality rate
 - d. Airline that crashes half the time
 - e. Doctor who kills half his patients
 4. Fewer people getting married
 - a. Since 1960, Number of marriages dropped by 20%
 - b. Half of American adults choose to stay single
 - c. 40% of say marriage is obsolete (including 31% of married couples)—Pew Research Report
- C. Children's view of marriage: Better to stay single or get married?
 1. "As soon as I'm done with kindergarten I'm gonna get me a wife." – Bert, age 5
 2. "It gives me a headache to think about that stuff. I'm just a kid. I don't need this kind of trouble." – Will, age 7
- D. Marriage doesn't have to be trouble: God has given us a blueprint
 1. Our prerogative not to follow it
 2. If you follow, don't have to wonder how something so good could end so bad

3. Not all believe principles: if we don't go with God's principles, headed for trouble
4. Almost without exception, successful couples have these principles intact
5. Those who face constant trouble disregard these principles
- E. "Marriage is like a violin—it doesn't work without strings, and when the music stops, the strings are still attached."
- F. Setting
 1. Lord made man and woman
 2. He brought them together
 3. He gives principles for their relationship to succeed
- II. Marriage Begins with Identity (v. 23)
 - A. Bone of my bones; flesh of my flesh
 1. Ancient poetry
 - a. First poetic couplet in the Bible
 - b. Framed in Hebrew parallelism
 - i. Thoughts that rhyme or build upon one another
 - ii. Rhythm
 - a. First line has two beat rhythm
 - b. Second line has a three beat rhythm
 2. Ancient idiomatic expression of delight
 - a. At last!
 - b. Wow!
 - c. Where have you been all my life?
 - d. Understands she is different; she came out of him
 - B. Man
 1. Until this point, Hebrew word: אָדָם; adam-man
 - a. From אֶרֶץ; adamah-earth ground
 - b. Adam and the animals fashioned from the earth
 2. New names, because woman came from side of man
 - a. אִישׁ; ish-man
 - b. אִשָּׁה; ishsha-woman, wife
 - c. Their names correspond to one another
 - d. Whole new identity
 - e. "Now at length I have obtained a suitable companion who is part of the substance of my flesh and in whom I behold as it were another self."
(Calvin's translation)
 - C. A covenant unit
 1. Agreement or an arrangement
 2. Binding arrangement that commits two or more parties to perform certain actions
 3. Solemn, formal arrangement
 - a. "The Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth...she is your companion and your wife by covenant" (Malachi 2:14)
 - b. "Covenant of her God" (Proverbs 2:17)
 4. Same word God uses when he makes a covenant with people: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel" (Jeremiah 31:31)

- a. Marriage is sacred
 - b. Same kind of agreement as when he makes an agreement with mankind
 - D. Remember the feelings of your wedding day
 - 1. Weight of responsibility
 - 2. Excitement
 - E. "Adam and Eve had the ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the other men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about how his mother cooked"
- III. Marriage Requires Responsibility (v. 24)
 - A. Leaving
 - 1. One relationship severed in order to solidify another relationship
 - 2. Leave: in Hebrew abandon
 - a. Doesn't mean lose all contact
 - b. Means cut the cord of dependence
 - c. You are in an adult relationship with your parents
 - 3. What do your parents think?
 - a. It matters
 - b. They influence the relationship
 - 4. Parents: release your kids
 - a. Don't try to run their lives
 - b. Your goal is to launch them
 - c. Symbolic in weddings
 - i. Who brings this woman?
 - ii. I do, we do, her mother and I do
 - 5. Every other relationship must take a back seat
 - a. Career
 - b. Friends
 - c. Hobbies
 - d. Television
 - e. Reprioritized with ultimate relationship with spouse
 - f. "A successful marriage demands a divorce—a divorce from your own self-love" – Jerry McCant
 - B. Cleaving
 - 1. Meaning
 - a. Be joined
 - b. Cleave: to be glued or welded together
 - c. Conveys permanence
 - 2. Not "I do" but "I will"
 - a. Not only now
 - b. Now and continuing into the future
 - 3. Togetherness in a permanent situation
 - a. Jesus gives one exception: (See Matthew 19:9)
 - b. No matter the circumstance, there is never a separation without damage
 - i. Papers glued together and pulled apart are ripped up
 - ii. "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6, KJV)
 - 4. Permanence not part of our thinking
 - a. Redrawn God's blueprint with a back door

- b. Vows are made while thinking, "Unless there's a glitch"
 - 5. Faithful to spouse until death
 - a. Not as pretty, not cook, not clean: keep promise
 - b. Gain weight, bald, bad breath: keep promise
 - C. Weaving
 - 1. Becoming one flesh
 - a. Child is produced
 - b. Share everything
 - i. Bodies
 - ii. Insights
 - iii. Possessions
 - c. "It is the type of relationship that is shared with no one else other than one's mate. It is a partnership in every area of life for as long as both partners live. In other words, there's absolutely nothing about which one spouse may say to the other, 'That's none of your business.' The wife has complete and unfettered access to every area of her husband's life and so also the husband to every area of his wife's life. There are no locked doors or secret hiding places." –Wayne Mack
 - 2. Takes a long time
 - a. Become one flesh
 - b. A process
 - 3. Marriage isn't held together by chains, but threads woven with spouse every day
 - 4. Welding ongoing: like the Eiffel Tower
- IV. Marriage Should Result in Intimacy (v. 25)
 - A. Naked
 - 1. To lay bear
 - 2. Reciprocal idea
 - a. With one another
 - b. Before one another
 - 3. Vulnerability
 - B. Not sex
 - 1. Intimacy leads to sexuality
 - 2. Men think of sex
 - 3. Women think of something else
 - a. Open unguarded relationship
 - b. Transparent sharing
 - C. When sin entered, the relationship was spoiled
 - D. Marriage infinitely rewarding at its best
 - E. Unspeakable oppressive at its worst
 - F. When you leave, cleave, and weave you achieve intimacy
 - G. Referred to four times in the New Testament
 - H. "My grandparents were married for over half a century, and played their own special game from the time they had met each other. The goal of their game was to write the word 'shmily' in a surprise place for the other to find.

They took turns leaving 'shmily' around the house, and as soon as one of them discovered it, it was their turn to hide it once more. They dragged 'shmily' with their

fingers through the sugar and flour containers to await whoever was preparing the next meal. They smeared it in the dew on the windows overlooking the patio where my grandma always fed us warm, homemade pudding with blue food coloring. 'Shmily' was written in the steam left on the mirror after a hot shower, where it would reappear bath after bath.

At one point, my grandmother even unrolled an entire roll of toilet paper to leave 'shmily' on the very last sheet. There was no end to the places 'shmily' would pop up. Little notes with 'shmily' scribbled hurriedly were found on dashboards and car seats, or taped to steering wheels. The notes were stuffed inside shoes and left under pillows. 'Shmily' was written in the dust upon the mantel and traced in the ashes of the fireplace.

This mysterious word was as much a part of my grandparents' house as the furniture. It took me a long time before I was able to fully appreciate my grandparent's game. Skepticism has kept me from believing in true love - one that is pure and enduring. However, I never doubted my grandparents' relationship. They had love down pat. It was more than their flirtatious little games; it was a way of life.

Their relationship was based on a devotion and passionate affection which not everyone is lucky enough to experience. Grandma and Grandpa held hands every chance they could. They stole kisses as they bumped into each other in their tiny kitchen. They finished each other's sentences and shared the daily crossword puzzle and word jumble. My grandma whispered to me about how cute my grandpa was, how handsome an old man he had grown to be. She claimed that she really knew 'how to pick 'em.' Before every meal they bowed heads and gave thanks, marveling at their blessings: a wonderful family, good fortune, and each other.

But there was a dark cloud in my grandparents' life: my grandmother had breast cancer. The disease had first appeared 10 years earlier. As always, Grandpa was with her every step of the way. He comforted her in their yellow room, painted that color so she could always be surrounded by sunshine, even when she was too sick to go outside. Now the cancer was once again attacking her body. With the help of a cane and my grandfather's steady hand, they still went to church every Sunday morning. But my grandmother grew steadily weaker until, finally, she could not leave the house anymore.

For a while, Grandpa would go to church alone, praying to God to watch over his wife. Then one day, what we all dreaded finally happened. Grandma was gone. 'Shmily.' It was scrawled in yellow on the pink ribbons of my grandmother's funeral bouquet.

As the crowd thinned and the last mourners turned to leave, my aunts, uncles, cousins, and other family members came forward and gathered around Grandma one last time. Grandpa stepped up to my grandmother's casket and, taking a shaky breath, he began to sing to her. Through his tears and grief, the song came, a deep and throaty lullaby. Shaking with my own sorrow, I will never forget that moment. For I knew then that, although I couldn't begin to fathom the depth of their love, had been privileged to witness its unmatched beauty. S-h-m-i-l-y: See How Much I Love You."

by Laura Jeanne Allen - "Shmily" *Chicken Soup for the Couple's Soul*

Hebrew terms: אָדָם; adam-man; אֲדָמָה; adamah-earth ground; אִישׁ; ish-man; אִשְׁשָׁה; ishsha-woman, wife

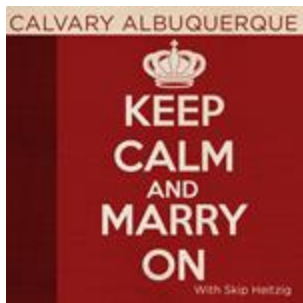
Publications referenced: "Schmily" by Laura Jeanne Allen, *Chicken Soup for the Couple's Soul*; Pew Research Report

Figures referenced: Ann Landers; John Calvin; Jerry McCant; Wayne Mack

Cross references: Proverbs 2:17; Jeremiah 31:31; Malachi 2:14; Matthew 19:6; Matthew 19:9

Topic: Marriage

Keywords: wedding, vows, marriage, leaving, cleaving, weaving, in-laws, in-law



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Trouble In Paradise
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 3:1-20
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2220

MESSAGE SUMMARY

One pundit said, "'And they lived happily ever after' is one of the most tragic sentences in literature. It's tragic because it tells a falsehood about life and has led countless generations of people to expect something from human existence that is not possible on this fragile, failing, imperfect earth." Even in Eden, Adam and Eve didn't live happily ever after. The fall of man into sin brought repercussions that are still felt today.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Paradise
 - I. Hawaii
 - a. Tourists: Paradise
 - i. Beautiful place
 - ii. 85 degrees, sunny, trade winds
 - b. Locals: Trouble
 - i. Racial discrimination
 - ii. Homelessness
 - iii. Cost of living: 30% more for groceries and gas
 - iv. Traffic
 - v. Disposal of trash
 2. Genesis
 - a. Stop at chapter 2, like a tourist
 - b. Chapter 3: trouble in paradise
 - B. Trouble in marriages and relationships
 1. Congressman urged
 - a. Stand up regarding marriage
 - b. There is a shift away from God's standard
 - c. Use influence to get people back on track
 2. Election season
 - a. For many, most important issue: economy
 - i. Idea: if we fix economy, fix nation
 - ii. "It's the economy, stupid!" –James Carville
 - b. Not the economy: fundamental problem is within the home
 - i. "The strength of a nation lies in the homes of its people." – Abraham Lincoln
 - ii. Fundamental component of a nation: family

- iii. Fundamental component of a family: marriage
- iv. "The decline of the American family is the hidden issue in our election. Sadly, neither presidential candidate is talking about our family structure or traditional values in any positive or constructive way. But we are now facing a crisis of serious proportions that affects all Americans, regardless of race and class." –Patrick Caddell

C. Marriage in a fallen world

- 1. Not the world God intended
- 2. In order to navigate marriage in a fallen world, we need to be tethered to something strong
 - a. Nick Wallenda
 - i. Crossed Niagara falls on a tightrope
 - ii. 18,000 feet
 - iii. 200 feet above river
 - iv. ABC demanded he wear a safety tether
 - v. Repeated praise and thanks to Jesus Christ
 - b. Marriage like walking a tightrope
 - i. Winds of adversity
 - ii. Mist: can't see exactly where we are going
 - iii. Tethered to something strong: Scripture and couples to give necessary support

3. Adam and Eve: prototype

II. The Honeymoon Ends; Trouble Begins

A. The Deceiver's Lies (vv. 1-5)

- 1. Third party to break up the marriage: Satan
 - a. *And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"* (Genesis 2:23-3:1)
 - i. Trouble enters immediately
 - ii. "If the wedding is the dream, then the marriage is the alarm clock."
 - iii. Adversity comes in early and it says late
 - iv. Narrative of Adam and Eve
 - a. By end of Genesis 3, evicted from their home
 - b. In Genesis 4, they lose a son
 - c. By end of Genesis 4, their other son goes rogue and runs away
 - v. Every couple goes through difficulties and adjustments
 - a. Finance
 - b. Sexuality
 - c. Communication
 - d. In-laws

- b. God's enemy hates whatever God loves
 - c. Whatever God establishes, he is there to destroy
 - 2. נָחָשׁ; nachash: a serpent; a shining one
 - a. Satan is a shining one
 - b. Not a pitchfork and horns
 - c. An angel of light
 - d. Smooth, suave, debonair
 - e. "We are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11)
 - 3. How Satan attacked the first couple
 - a. He challenges God's love
 - i. The "God of love" would withhold something from you?
 - ii. Doesn't God want you to be happy?
 - iii. God wouldn't want you to be miserable. Bail out!
 - b. He challenges God's Word
 - a. If you question God's Word, then we separate ourselves from it
 - b. Correlation between those who don't have devotions and those who have enormous problems
 - c. Pastor's questions at marriage seminars
 - i. How many have daily quiet times with the Lord? 10%
 - ii. How many couples pray together? 5%
 - iii. Lots of Christian couples try to do their marriage without God
 - c. He substitutes His own lie
 - . Perverts what God did
 - a. Make God in your image
 - b. If the Bible can't be trusted you substitute truth with your feelings
- B. The Tempter's Tricks (v. 6)
 - 1. It looked so good
 - 2. "For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." (1 John 2:16-17)
 - a. Lust of the flesh: she saw that it was good for food
 - b. Lust of the eyes: pleasant to the eyes
 - c. Pride of life: desirable to make one wise
 - 3. Incessant enemy
 - a. Satan and minions have studied humanity and know our weaknesses
 - b. Nails the soft spot over and over
 - c. The temptation looks good; he plays upon our desire
 - 4. The fall of humanity
 - a. The sequence
 - . She took
 - i. She ate
 - ii. She gave
 - iii. He ate
 - b. Sin entered the human experience
 - . We are all sinners

- a. "Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men" (Romans 5:12)
 - b. The Savior is there to cure us from sin
- III. Innocence Ends; The Cover-up Begins
 - A. Hiding (vv. 7-11)
 - 1. Self-conscious
 - a. Their nakedness had not been an issue to them
 - b. Guilt
 - 2. Isolated
 - a. Withdrew by covering up with fig leaves
 - b. Had been selfless; now self-absorbed, self-conscious, self-consumed
 - 3. Afraid
 - a. God came walking toward them; they ran from Him
 - b. Cool of the day: morning or evening
 - c. God walked with them
 - . הָלַךְ; halak: to go, come, walk; suggests to be at ease among or conversant with
 - i. At a set time, God fellowshiped with His creation
 - ii. Where are you?
 - iii. Adam ran
 - d. Running away is instinctive to guilt
 - B. Blame Shifting (vv. 12-13)
 - 1. The woman you gave me
 - a. Blamed Eve
 - b. Blamed God
 - c. Probably broke Eve's heart: Had said "Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh" (Genesis 2:23)
 - 2. Eve blamed the devil
 - 3. Marriages destroyed by anger and blame
 - a. *Psychology Today* article: "The road to marital ruin begins with blame."
 - b. We are good at blaming others
- IV. Deception Ends; Redemption Begins (vv. 7, 15, 20)
 - A. God announces a coming destroyer of the serpent: Prophecy of the Messiah
 - 1. They made themselves coverings
 - a. Fig leaves
 - b. Uncomfortable
 - c. They would dry up and fall off
 - d. They would be naked again
 - 2. God made tunics of skin and clothed them
 - a. Genesis 1: God's the Creator
 - b. Genesis 2: God's the Surgeon and the Matchmaker
 - c. Genesis 3: God's the Tailor
 - d. God kills an animal and gives them the skins'
 - . Innocent blood is shed for Adam and Eve
 - i. A preview of coming attractions
 - ii. An innocent life must end to put an end to their guilt

- iii. "Without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22)
 - B. Adam and Eve were afraid they were dead
 - 1. "In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:17)
 - 2. Death occurs, but it's not their death
 - 3. Probably a lambskin covered them
 - C. Blood must be shed for sin
 - 1. One animal per person
 - 2. Exodus: One lamb per family
 - 3. Under Law: One lamb per nation
 - 4. New Testament: "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)
 - D. Choices when dealing with sin
 - 1. Run from God: Separation
 - 2. Run to God: Redemption
- V. Application: expectations in marriage
 - A. It's a broken world, walking and you best be tethered
 - B. You are a sinner married to a sinner
 - 1. Happiest marriage is the union of two forgivers
 - 2. God has forgiven you
 - a. Heaven as a free gift
 - b. Jesus' blood covers you
 - 3. Best way to forgive is to experience forgiveness

Hebrew terms: נָחָשׁ; nachash: a serpent; a shining one; הָלַךְ; halak: to go, come, walk; suggests to be at ease among or conversant with

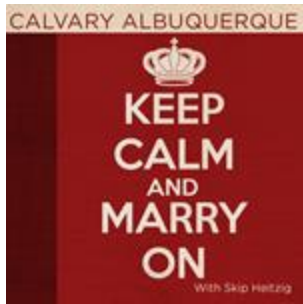
Publications referenced: *Psychology Today*

Figures referenced: James Carville, Abraham Lincoln, Patrick Caddell, Nick Wallenda

Cross references: Genesis 2:17; Genesis 2:23-25; Genesis 4; John 1:29; Romans 5:12; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Hebrews 9:22; 1 John 2:16-17

Topic: Fall of Man

Keywords: sin, temptation, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life, Satan, blame, redeem, redemption, marriage, fallen



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Gender Wars
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 1-3
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2222

MESSAGE SUMMARY

"Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" reads a popular book title. The genders are different from each other; we were designed that way. Today we consider that design and how it became marred. This section of Scripture helps us understand the roots of chauvinism and feminism, both of which have added confusion to our culture. It also helps us understand the roles God gave to men and women, and how they work today.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction: Men and Women are Different from One Another
 - A. Differences described
 1. *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*
 2. Men are like dogs; women are like cats
 3. Men are like woofers; women are like tweeters
 4. Men are like flannel; women are like floral
 - B. Those with differences join to form interesting marriage
 1. No one is perfect
 2. Happy marriage: union of two forgivers
 - C. We don't understand the opposite sex
 1. Brains, hearts, spirits
 2. "There are three things that amaze me—no, four things I do not understand: how an eagle glides through the sky, how a snake slithers on a rock, how a ship navigates the ocean, how a man loves a woman." (Proverbs 30:18-19)
 - a. Solomon, filled with great wisdom (see 1 Kings 4:29) couldn't figure it out
 - b. Solomon had about 700 wives and 300 girlfriends
 - D. Both men and women are from God
 1. Sin entered the human experience
 2. Sin contaminated and complicated every relationship
 3. Gender wars
 4. What happened?
 5. What now?
 6. Examine from a designers point of view: Designer with intention
- II. The Magnificent Design: *Rule With Each Other* (1:26-28)
 - A. Designed in God's Image
 1. Both men and women designed in His image
 2. Capable of expressing God's communicable attributes
 - a. Intellect

- b. Emotion
 - c. Will
 - d. Choice
 - 3. We share something with the Creator that other creatures do not share
 - 4. Tripartite being
 - a. Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - b. Body, soul, spirit
 - 5. Equality does not mean interchangeable: men and women are unique
- B. Designed as God's Ambassadors
 - 1. Designed to rule together
 - 2. Represent God over creation
 - 3. Co-regents: male and female rule together
- C. Principles
 - 1. Marriage should mirror God's image
 - 2. Marriage should manage God's realm
- III. The Matched Design: *Role With Each Other* (2:7, 18, 23)
 - A. Designed Similar but Different
 - 1. Match made in heaven: unique roles
 - a. Male
 - i. Chief gardener
 - ii. Chief animal namer
 - iii. Man not good alone
 - b. Female
 - i. A helper suitable to him
 - ii. Comparable
 - iii. Like opposite him
 - iv. Something that completes a polarity
 - v. Different but complementary
 - 2. Differences
 - a. On different wavelengths
 - i. Men average 4 items in the bathroom
 - ii. Women average 328 items in the bathroom
 - b. "Men are different from women. They are equal only in their common membership of the same species, humankind. To maintain that they are the same in aptitude, skill or behavior is to build a society based on a biological and scientific lie." – *Brain sex: The Real Difference between Men and Women*, by Anne Moir and David Jessel
 - c. "Men and women differ in every cell of their bodies." – Dr. Paul Popenoe
 - d. Physiologically
 - i. Metabolism
 - 1. Women's slower
 - 2. Men's more active
 - ii. Skeletal structure: Women shorter head, broader face, less protruding chin, longer trunk, shorter legs, woman's first finger usually longer than the third (men the reverse)
 - iii. Woman's major organs are larger: stomach, kidneys, liver, appendix, but smaller lungs

- iv. Glandular differences
 - 1. Woman's larger thyroid, more active, during pregnancy and menstruation, provides resistance to cold
 - 2. Smoother skin
 - 3. Relatively hairless body
- v. Woman's blood contains more water; 20% fewer red blood cells
 - 1. Why women tire more easily
 - 2. Why women are more prone to faint
- vi. Heart rate
 - 1. Women average 80 beats/minute
 - 2. Men average 72 beats/minute
- e. Communication
 - i. Eye contact
 - 1. Women hold for 12 seconds
 - 2. Men hold for 3 seconds
 - ii. Identity
 - 1. Women find identity in close relationships
 - 2. Men find identity in what they do, occupation, status
 - iii. Worry
 - 1. Women worry about the future until married
 - 2. Men never worry about the future until married
 - iv. Speech
 - 1. Harvard University study of communication among preschoolers
 - a. Girls communicate in recognizable words
 - b. 60% of boys' communications were recognizable
 - c. 40% of boys' communications were sound effects and yelling
 - 2. Speech
 - a. Men speak in shorter phrases; not a lot of details
 - b. Women want details
 - 3. Differ in the Fall of Man
 - a. Eve: deceived, more trusting
 - b. Adam: disobedient
 - c. "For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression." (1 Timothy 2:13)
 - 4. Words
 - a. Average woman: 25,500 words/day
 - b. Average man: 12,500 words/day
- B. Designed to Minimize Differences
 - 1. Maximize each other's lives
 - a. Fill in what's lacking
 - b. Two become one flesh
 - 2. Spouse: God's gift to complete you
 - a. Don't resist the completion process

- b. Failure to accept your mate as a gift from God to complete and complement you expresses rejection of God's provision, and is an act of unbelief.
- c. "In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. If you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard." (1 Peter 3:7 NLT)
 - i. Sound like: secret to effective spiritual life is an effective marital life
 - ii. Husbands to deal with wives in an understanding way
 - 1. Understanding differences
 - 2. Understanding weaknesses
 - 3. Failure to understand can be catastrophic on a number of levels
- 3. Mutually complete one another

IV. The Marred Design: *Rule Over Each Other* (3:16-19)

A. Marred by Pain

- 1. God predicts pain in the areas of identity
 - a. Women: home, relationship with child; pain in childbirth
 - b. Men: job; pain in work
- 2. "Man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward." (Job 5:7)

B. Marred by Conflict

- 1. Prediction of marital strife
- 2. Design to rule together
- 3. The fall: Satan attacked God's design
 - a. Satan bypasses Adam
 - b. Goes to Eve: designed to be the follower in the relationship
 - c. Eve
 - i. Disobeyed the explicit command of God
 - ii. Acted independently of her husband
 - d. Adam
 - i. Disobeyed the explicit command of God
 - ii. Abdicated leadership; yielded to Eve's usurping the role
- 4. "Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you" (v. 16)
 - a. מַשָּׁל; mashaal-rule, dominion, reign
 - b. God once had them serve as co-leaders, now Eve is dominated
 - c. תְּשׁוּקָה; teshuqah - to compel, to urge, to seek control over, to desire
 - i. Difficult to translate
 - ii. "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." (Genesis 4:7)
 - 1. Sin wants to dominate you
 - 2. You must control it
 - d. Best translated: "You will want to control your husband, and he will want to subdue you."
 - e. Where the battle of the sexes began
 - f. Strains of the battle through history

- i. Male chauvinism
 - 1. Women suppressed
 - 2. Women oppressed
 - 3. Women viewed as slaves
 - ii. Feminism
 - 1. Men pushed aside
 - 2. Men and women are identical on every level
 - a. Untrue
 - b. Differences complement each other
- C. Application
 - 1. Perfect man marrying perfect woman for perfect marriage doesn't happen
 - 2. Redeemed man marrying redeemed woman (restored to their Creator), restored to one another; home can be a reflection of the Garden of Eden before the fall. Unity
 - 3. Cannot do marriage apart from God and redemption and be satisfied
 - 4. "When I was a young man, I vowed never to marry until I found the *ideal woman*. Well, I found her—but, alas, she was *waiting for the perfect man*."—Robert Schumann

Hebrew terms: מָשַׁל; mashal-rule, dominion, reign; תְּשׁוּקָה; teshuqah - to compel, to urge, to seek control over, to desire

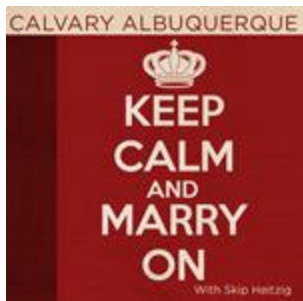
Publications referenced: *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*, John Gray, Ph.D.; *Brain sex: The Real Difference between Men and Women*, by Anne Moir and David Jessel

Figures referenced: Dr. Paul Popenoe; Robert Schumann

Cross references: Genesis 4:7; I Kings 4:29; Job 5:7; Proverbs 30:18-19; I Timothy 2:13; I Peter 3:7

Topic: Roles of Men and Women

Keywords: marriage, roles, men, women, curse, fall, gender, chauvinism, feminism



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Friends with Benefits
SPEAKER:	Nate Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Matthew 22:37-40
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2224

MESSAGE SUMMARY

No matter how you view dating, finding the right mate can be tricky. What should you be looking for in a potential spouse? How can you know that this is God's best for you? Though the Bible is silent about dating per se, it says a lot about how we are to treat one another and what our priorities ought to be. These principles play a major factor in the success of dating relationships—and marriages. Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 22:37-40 for guidance in playing the sometimes challenging dating game.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

A. Male/Female relationships

1. Relevant in all eras and walks of life
2. Dating, courting, going steady
3. "I don't understand the whole dating thing."—Britney Spears

B. Why so many people date the wrong way

1. Cues from media and Hollywood

- a. "I don't know of any of us who are in relationships that are totally honest—it just doesn't exist." —Richard Gere
- b. "I don't have a girlfriend. But I do know a woman who'd be mad at me for saying that." —Mitch Hedberg
- c. "I have a lot of boyfriends, I want you to write that. Every country I visit, I have a different boyfriend. And I kiss them all." —Anna Kournikova
- d. "There's only two people in your life you should lie to...the police and your girlfriend." —Jack Nicholson

2. Television examples

- a. Not exclusive; okay to date or hook up with as many people as you want; i.e., *The Bachelor*
- b. Game; not real
- c. If you are lucky, you marry rich and then you're set; i.e., *The Choice*, *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?*
- d. Perfect date includes: a private chef, hot tub, lots of wine, maybe getting lucky

3. Sounds crude and wrong because it is

4. Society looks at what can please instantly rather than ultimately

C. Statistics on dating in America

1. 54 million single people
2. 40 million have tried online dating

3. 53% have dated more than one person simultaneously
 4. On average, couples wait 6-8 dates before entering an exclusive relationship
 5. After 12-14 dates, couples trade house keys
- D. Worldly Views
1. Only benefit: sex
 2. Tiny marriages because of sexual intimacy
 3. High divorce rate: okay to give something meant only for marriage, when bored, or find someone better, get out
 4. How far is too far? (Asked on *Shock Therapy Live*)
 - a. Won't answer; walk up to edge, look over, and probably sin anyway
 - b. Rather ask: How holy is too holy?
 - c. How pure is too pure?
- E. Christian views
1. Seek the highest God has for us; not the lowest
 2. Look for the best person God has for us
 3. Benefits of a godly relationship outweigh the benefits of a worldly one
 4. Possible to be friends with benefits—not the kind of benefits the world offers
- F. Biblical culture
1. Not American lens
 2. Arranged marriages
 3. Bible doesn't directly tell us how to date
 4. Bible gives life principles to apply to dating
 5. Bible helps us view relationships the way they are supposed to be
- II. Be a God Digger, Not a Gold Digger
- A. Love the Lord God with all your heart, soul, and mind
1. Greatest commandment
 2. Applies to every area of life—including dating
- B. Foundation of relationship
1. Do you and do they adore God?
 - a. "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers." (2 Corinthians 6:14)
 - b. Are they converted?
 - c. What do I want? What does God want? Are they the same?
- C. People tend to drop standards
1. Over time
 2. Gradual decisions
 3. We shouldn't be lowering standards
 4. We shouldn't be settling for the worst
 5. "We shouldn't be driving the Pinto when God has the Ferrari parked outside."
 - a. Ferrari on the inside, not the outside
 - b. Doesn't matter if the car looks great; does it run?
 - c. Society says sexual attraction and money are most important
 - i. Women who post photos on dating sites receive twice as many emails as those who don't
 - ii. Men who reported income above \$250,000 received 156% more email than those who reported income of \$50,000
 - iii. 4M Club (MultiMillionaire MatchMaking Club)

- a. Seattle, Washington
 - b. Women pay \$250 to be listed as potential partners for single millionaires
 - D. Don't let money or looks be most important: Let it be their relationship with God
 - 1. Do they have a deep sincere love for Jesus Christ?
 - 2. Are you both believers? What do you believe?
 - a. 76.5% of Americans call themselves Christians
 - b. We are called to be born again, changed
 - 3. Are they real?
 - 1. Do they adore God?
 - 2. Do they respect you?
 - 3. Do they honor boundaries?
 - 4. Do they respect convictions?
 - 5. Adore God with their lips and their lives?
 - 6. Don't love things of darkness, but love the light
 - 7. Not perfect, but growing and changing
 - 8. Evidence of belief in Jesus
 - E. Nothing wrong with physical attraction; cannot base choice on infatuation
 - F. Average person has five "real loves" between 9th grade and second year of college
 - G. What separates feeling from true love?
 - 1. True love stands the test of time
 - 2. True love stands the test of patience
 - 3. Love is a constant devotion, not a passing emotion
 - H. Guidelines
 - 1. Shouldn't date unless they are marriage material
 - 2. To date without the possibility of marriage is set up for falling into sin
 - 3. Shouldn't date unless marriage is in sight
 - 4. Whoever you date should be a believer who has evidence of God's work in their life and who adores God
 - I. Love others
 - 1. Man reason relationships fail: selfishness, pride
 - 2. The more selfless you are the more successful your relationship will be
- III. Act Like Royalty, Not Rap Stars
 - A. Respect
 - 1. "I have compared you, my love, to my filly among Pharaoh's chariots." (Song of Solomon 1:9)
 - . Do they respect you?
 - a. Do they respect the Bible's and your boundaries?
 - b. Filly: horse
 - i. More important than his most prized possession
 - ii. Fastest horse in the stable
 - 2. Worth protecting
 - 3. Worth pursuing
 - B. Men
 - 1. Leaders
 - 2. Called to be the initiator
 - 3. Don't lead girls on

4. Don't toy with their emotions
 5. Make sure she knows how much you value and respect her
 6. Make her feel cherished
- C. Ladies
1. Don't be a player-dater
 2. Don't date sleazebags
- D. Does my boyfriend/girlfriend feel as loved and valued as my hobby, possession, etc.
- E. Show respect by asking what parents think about the relationship
1. If parents don't know, you are a jerk
 2. If they won't like you, change
 3. Girls deserve a gentleman—they are made in the image of God
 4. Don't begin a relationship being sneaky and disrespectful
 - . If you are, you don't deserve a relationship
 - a. If it starts in sin, it won't get better
 5. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,'" (Ephesians 6:1-2)
 6. Parents help us see things we don't always see
 - . May see something dangerous
 - a. Give us insight and advice
 - b. Keep you accountable
 7. Whoever you date or marry you also date/marry the family
 8. If your age makes this weird, ask pastors
 9. Prayer and counseling before the relationship starts
 10. Instruction to parents
 - . Be the kind of people your kids are comfortable bringing their dates around
 - a. Don't view dating as a forbidden word
- IV. You've Got Game...Use It!
- A. Pursue one another
1. "He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love." (Song of Solomon 2:4)
 2. What to do once you've caught the fish
 - . Applies to dating, marriage, engagement
 - a. When pursuing send flowers, write poems, etc.—don't let that stop
 3. Guys and girls want to be pursued, even after they've been won over
- B. Takes time for a relationship to grow: Spend time together
- C. "Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes." (Song of Solomon 1:15)
1. Doves have tunnel vision
 2. See nothing but what is in front of them
- D. Commitment
1. Adoration for God
 2. Respect for one another
 3. Time spent together
 4. Must be cultivated
- E. "You are handsome, my beloved! Yes, pleasant!" (Song of Solomon 1:16)
1. Quality time with each other and with God

- 2. Guys want their woman to think they are cool
 - . Don't care what others think
 - a. Affirm husbands/boyfriends
- 3. Girls want to know they are beautiful
 - . Nothing else compares
 - a. Nothing comes between you
- 4. Constant affirmation
- F. Are you friendly? Are you kind?
- G. Close friends with Godly benefits
 - 1. Not sexual intimacy, but spiritual intimacy
 - 2. Not monetary value, but moral value
- H. Don't be transparent
- I. Don't be dependant
- J. Seek love in Christ; He desires a relationship with you

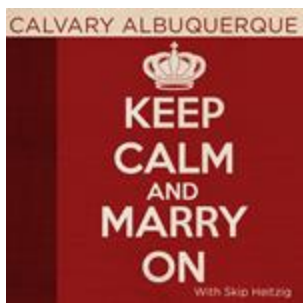
Publications referenced: *The Choice*; *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?*; *Shock Therapy Live*

Figures referenced: Britney Spears; Richard Gere; Mitch Hedberg; Anna Kournikova; Jack Nicholson

Cross references: Song of Solomon 1:9; Song of Solomon 1:15; Song of Solomon 1:16; Song of Solomon 2:4; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 6:1-2

Topic: Dating

Keywords: Marriage, dating, respect, pursuit, courting



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	The Hardest Word in a Marriage
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Ephesians 5:22-24
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2226

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Some people would consider submission to be as bad as a four-letter word. But that's because they don't understand it. God's plan is always the best plan. He designed your life to be one that is fulfilling and rewarding. Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). For that to happen, we must function within the guidelines of His will in the relational roles we occupy. Today we look at the basic role of a wife in a marriage relationship.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

A. Hard-to-hear words

1. Death, hell, depression, recession, layoff, foreclosure, divorce, cancer, inoperable, infertile, loneliness, paralyzed, sin, war, breakup
2. Words that imply pain, bias, injustice, fear
3. Submit: hardest word in relational vocabulary
 - a. Submission is good
 - b. Healthy

B. Misconception: Many assume passage begins in v. 22 "Wives"

1. Begins in v. 21 "one another"
2. Thought begins in v. 18
 - a. Two commands
 - b. Four present participles
 - i. Speaking
 - ii. Singing
 - iii. Giving
 - iv. Submitting

II. Submission is Mutual (v. 21)

A. Expressed simply

1. "All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word."—Winston Churchill
2. Paul gives simple roles
 - a. "Husbands love your wives" (v. 25)
 - b. Wives submit to your husbands

B. Submit implied: the word "submit" is not there in the Greek; "Submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives to your own husbands as to the Lord... Husbands, love your wives.

1. Every person in the family relationship is called to be under submission

- a. Wives to husbands (v. 22)
 - b. Husbands to love wives (v. 25)
 - c. Children to parents (see Ephesians 6:1)
 - d. Parents to children (see Ephesians 6:4)
- 2. Husbands are to submit to wives: "Love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (v. 25)
 - a. No greater act of submission than a willingness to die for another
 - b. Cross: the ultimate example of submission
- C. Submission defined
 - 1. ὑποτάσσω; hupotassó - military term; to arrange in order file, rank
 - 2. To get in order under someone else
 - 3. Willing to relinquish your rights
 - 4. Willingness to cooperate with and adapt to the needs of those you love
- D. Wives not commanded to obey their husbands
 - 1. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Ephesians 6:1)
 - 2. ὑπακούω; hupakouó - obey
 - 3. Slaves to obey masters (see Ephesians 6:5)
 - 4. Wives are not to be treated like children or slaves; they are partners in eternal life
- E. Mutual submission for functionality
 - 1. For the function of marriage, there must be submission
 - 2. Not inferiority or superiority; someone must be the head
 - 3. "Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does" (1 Corinthians 7:1-4)
 - 4. Every person in life and family relationships has a role of submission—even Christ
 - a. "I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3).
 - b. Jesus is not inferior
 - i. "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30)
 - ii. In very nature God (see Philippians 2:6)
 - c. Jesus submits to the Father
 - i. "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." (John 6:38)
 - ii. "If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." (Matthew 26:39)
 - 5. Order needed in Godhead, human government, military, marriage
 - 6. God has arranged certain roles without taking away the dignity of individuals so relationships can work in order and unity
 - 7. Overbearing men: (e.g., Ralph Kramden on *The Honeymooners*)
 - a. "I'm the head!"

- b. Women: "If you're the head, then I'm the neck that turns it wherever I want it to go!"
 - i. Rivalry
 - ii. Competition
 - iii. Manipulation

III. Submission is Provisional (v. 24)

A. Parameters

- 1. "In everything" (v. 24)
 - a. Every text must be interpreted in its context
 - b. Context: submitting to one another in the fear (reverence) of God
- 2. As to the Lord
- 3. As the church is subject to Christ
- 4. Everything that is consistent with the character of Christ and not opposed to His revealed Word
- 5. If opposed to the Word, appeal to higher authority
- 6. God doesn't ask the wife to submit to violent, abusive behavior
 - a. According to a study in Christianity Today, "Battered Christian Wives," 2/3 said it was their Christian responsibility to endure their husband's violence
 - b. 55% reported their husbands told them if they were more submissive, the violence would stop
 - c. Of those, 1/3 believed their husband: thinking submission is the key to domestic violence when it was not

B. Chain of Command

- 1. God
- 2. Jesus
- 3. Man
- 4. Woman
- 5. If the chain is broken, God's order is broken
- 6. If what the husband requires is not under submission to Jesus, the wife is to step out of submission and submit to the Lord
- 7. Example: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29)

C. Caution to wives: Watch your attitude

- 1. "The husband does not replace Christ as the woman's supreme authority. She must never follow her husband's leadership into sin. But even when a Christian wife may have to stand with Christ against the sinful will of her husband, she can still have a spirit of submission. She can show by her attitude and behavior that she does not like resisting his will and that she longs for him to forsake sin and lead in righteousness so that her disposition to honor him as head can again produce harmony." —John Piper
- 2. Attitude of love: "I'd love to submit to you, but I can't. I'd love to see you in obedience to Jesus Christ."
- 3. "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives" (1 Peter 3:1)

IV. Submission is Purposeful: There is a goal to the role

A. It Enables Leadership (vv. 22-23)

1. Some women long for their husband to be leader of the home, but never let him lead: Could it be he is not a good leader, because you aren't a good follower?
 2. Relinquish control
 3. Leadership implies the relinquishing of control and power to the leader
 4. Wife's submission may enable husband to become a good leader
 5. Illustration: Pete Flaherty, a county commissioner in Pittsburgh, and his wife, Nancy. They were standing on the sidewalk surveying a city construction project, when one of the laborers at the site called out to them. "Nancy, remember me?" he asked. "We used to date in high school." Later Pete teased her. "Aren't you glad you married me? Just think, if you had married him, you would be the wife of a construction worker." Nancy looked at him and said, "No, if I would have married him, he would have been a county commissioner!"
 6. Often, a man becomes great because a woman has enabled him to do so
- B. It Points to Christ (vv. 24, 32)
1. Attaching to a higher relationship with Christ
 2. Part of submitting to Christ includes submitting to husband
 3. Marriage is to be modeled after redemption: point people to Christ and His relationship with the church
 - a. Husband to model Jesus' self-sacrificial love
 - b. Wife to model church's surrender and submission to Christ
 - c. "If you want to know about the relationship between Jesus and His people, look at my marriage"
 - d. Your marriage is either a symbol of or a denial of Christ and His church
- V. Submission is Respectful (v.33)
- A. Fear and respect: same word in Greek
1. High esteem
 2. Reverence
- B. Illustrated: Queen Victoria and Prince Albert; If you want your husband to treat you like a queen, give them respect
- C. Do you act respectfully or disrespectfully?
1. Respect his position
 2. Jesus tells us things we may not like or agree with, but out of respect we do it
- D. You can build respect in your marriage
1. Find the things your husband is doing right; encourage him, thank him, acknowledge him
 2. "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things." (Philippians 4:8)
- E. Women, it is not your job to change your husband; it's God's job: "My job is to love Billy; it's God's job to change him"—Ruth Graham
1. Prayer
 2. Encouragement

Greek terms: ὑποτάσσω; hupotassó - military term; to arrange in order file, rank; ὑπακούω; hupakouó - obey

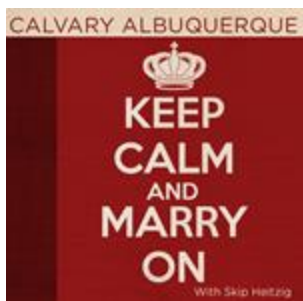
Publications referenced: "Battered Christian Women" *Christianity Today*; *The Honeymooners*

Figures referenced: Winston Churchill; John Piper; Pete Flaherty; Queen Victoria; Prince Albert; Ruth Graham

Cross references: Matthew 26:39; John 6:38; John 10:30; Acts 5:29; Ephesians 6:1; Ephesians 6:4; Ephesians 6:5; Philippians 2:6; Philippians 4:8; I Corinthians 7:1-4; I Corinthians 11:3; I Peter 3:1

Topic: Submission

Keywords: wife, submit, submission, mutual submission, marriage, respect, love



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	The Storm-Proof Shelter of a Husband's Love
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Ephesians 5:25-32
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2228

MESSAGE SUMMARY

OK men, it's our turn today—God's blueprint for husbands is in view here. God's plan is for a man's love to become a strong shelter for his wife. The kind of love the Bible directs a husband to have is the kind that makes it easy for a woman to submit to. In fact, I believe the husband holds the key to a flourishing relationship by his *initiating* and *cultivating* love.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

A. Storms of life, marriage

1. Marriage requires deep commitment
2. "Keep your eyes wide open before marriage and half-shut afterwards."—Benjamin Franklin

B. When people get married, love is strong and uncompromising, Tendency for love to wane over time

1. "Seven Ages of the Married Cold" *The Saturday Evening Post*: "1st year cold: The husband said, 'Sugar! I'm really worried about my baby girl! You've got a bad sniffle... I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general check-up... I know the food is lousy there, so I'll be bringing you food from Rosini's. I've already got it all arranged with the floor superintendent.'
2nd year cold: 'Listen, darling! I don't like the sound of that cough! I've called Dr. Miller to rush over here. Now you go to bed like a good little girl just rest for me there, please.'
3rd year cold: 'Maybe you better lie down, honey. Nothing like a little rest when you feel lousy. I'll bring you something to eat. Do you have any canned soup?'
4th year cold: 'Now look dear, be sensible! After you've fed the kids, washed the dishes, you'd better lie down.'
5th year cold: 'Why don't you take a couple of aspirin?'
6th year cold: 'If you'd just gargle or something, instead of sitting around barking like a seal!'
7th year cold: 'For Pete's sake, stop sneezing! Are you trying to give me pneumonia!?'"
2. Any relationship left untended will deteriorate over time and become less satisfying
3. Every person on earth is incompatible with every other person on earth
4. "In any marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find and to continue to find grounds for marriage"—Robert Anderson

- C. Purpose of Series
 - 1. Good marriages better
 - 2. Shaky marriages not only survive, but thrive
- D. In this passage, more written real estate given to the role of husband
 - 1. Three verses address wives (vv.22-24)
 - 2. Three times that amount devoted to husbands (vv.25-33)
 - 3. The key rests with husbands
- II. The Meaning of a Husband's Love (v. 25a)
 - A. The Husband
 - 1. Meaning
 - a. Original: one who works the soil; a tiller of the ground
 - i. "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser." (John 15:1, NKJV)
 - ii. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener." (John 15:1, NIV)
 - iii. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." (John 15:1, KJV)
 - b. Webster
 - i. A married man
 - ii. A prudent or frugal manager
 - 2. Husband is one who cultivates the marriage relationship
 - a. Wisely manages the home
 - b. Initiator
 - i. Women want men to be the spiritual leader in the relationship
 - ii. Not easy
 - iii. Chinese proverb: It's harder to lead a family than it is to rule a nation
 - c. We need Christian leaders in politics, but we need Christian leaders in families more so
 - B. The Husband's Love
 - 1. ἀγαπάτε; agapate - love
 - a. Second person, plural, present, active, imperative
 - b. Command
 - c. ἀγαπάω; agapao - extraordinary, far-reaching love
 - 2. Husband is the head of home; must have a heart for the home
 - a. Wives never told to love husbands; husbands commanded to love wives
 - b. "Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives" *The Message*
 - i. Not: husbands rule over your wives
 - ii. Not: husbands subjugate and conquer your wives
 - iii. Be lavish in love
 - c. Husband's authority to be mixed with affection
 - i. Wife responds to her husband's love
 - ii. Like iron rubbed with a magnet becomes magnetized
 - iii. Love in a marriage more caught than taught
 - 3. Husband who's a leader but not a lover is a tyrant
 - 4. Husband who's a lover not a leader is a sentimental sap
 - 5. Combine a leader with loving tenderness, a man

6. Valuable things take time
 - a. More time they take to manage, cultivate, maintain, the more valuable they are
 - b. Like tending a garden to bring forth fruit
7. Marriage the most challenging relationship
8. God-given pattern
 - a. Wives submit to husbands
 - b. Husbands love wives
 - c. If something goes wrong, not because there's a problem with the pattern—someone left the garden untended
9. Two analogies "as"
 - a. As Christ loves the church
 - b. As you love your own body

III. The Manner of a Husband's Love (vv. 25-31)

A. Sacrificial Love

1. As Christ loved the church and give Himself for her
 - a. Extraordinary love motivated Jesus to step out of heaven, come to earth, die on the cross, and give eternal life
 - b. On earth he was rejected, mocked, spit on, yelled at
2. Do you sacrifice for your wife?
 - a. Willing to give something up for her
 - b. Take a bullet for your wife: ultimate sacrifice
 - i. Necessarily means you would be willing to make lesser sacrifices
 - ii. Find out what she wants
3. Whether she fulfills her role or not: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
 - a. Unconditional
 - b. Irrevocable
4. Child's accurate description: "Love was when my grandmother got arthritis and she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore so my grandpa did it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too."

B. Sanctifying Love

1. Sanctify: to set something apart for its original purpose; fulfilling the purpose for which something was created (e.g., sitting in a chair)
2. Help your wife grow and mature to fulfill her role in the relationship
 - a. Initiate
 - b. Garden
 - c. Cultivate
 - d. To reach her role in the relationship:
 - i. "I will make him a helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:18)
 - ii. One like opposite him; north pole and south pole
3. Not just a housewife, *my* wife
 - a. We are partners
 - b. I couldn't be what I am without you

C. Secure Love

1. A wife is the extension of the husband
 - a. They have become one; they are a unit

- b. "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (Genesis 2:23)
 - 2. As you love your body
 - a. Feed them
 - b. Clothe them
 - c. Take care of them
 - d. Develop a sense of wellbeing
 - 3. Study with mirror outside a building
 - a. People like to look at themselves
 - b. Men stop to do it more than women
 - c. Body conscious
 - D. Stable Love
 - 1. Come from days, weeks, months, years of leaving, cleaving, and weaving
 - 2. Love: Second person, plural, present, active, imperative
 - a. A command to keep on loving her
 - b. "Husbands, keep on actively, repeatedly, without stopping, loving your wives"
 - 3. Typical pattern: Man sees, likes, impresses, she responds, marriage, man thinks: "conquest over"
 - a. Romancing, nurturing, communication comes to a halt
 - b. Stable love continues
- IV. The Mission of a Husband's Love (v. 32)
 - A. Marriage is intended to become a horizontal microcosm of a vertical reality
 - 1. Relating with other people is horizontal
 - 2. A picture and example of our relationship with God:
 - a. A means of seeing what the churches relationship is like:
 - b. Makes the relationship visible
 - B. Need to be able to resolve their conflict in order to have a message about the love of God and forgiveness of Christ
 - C. A good marriage is a good witness; a bad marriage is a bad witness
 - D. Family is under attack
 - 1. The role of a husband is under attack
 - 2. Satanic attack to undermine the husband's role
 - a. To neutralize an army kill the commander
 - b. To demoralize a nation, kill its king/president
 - c. To ruin a church, devastate its pastor
 - d. To ruin a family, take out the leader
 - E. God is honored by a tender warrior, servant leader, initiator, cultivator
 - F. "Getting married is easy. Staying married is more difficult. Staying happily married for a lifetime is among the fine arts."—Roberta Flack

Greek terms: ἀγαπάτε; agapate - love; ἀγαπάω; agapao - extraordinary, far-reaching love

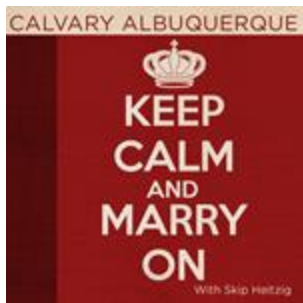
Publications referenced: "Seven Ages of the Married Cold" *The Saturday Evening Post*; *The Message*

Figures referenced: Ben Franklin, Robert Anderson, Roberta Flack

Cross references: Genesis 2:18; Genesis 2:23; John 15:1; Romans 5:8

Topic: Role of a Husband

Keywords: marriage, husband, leader, love



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Strength and Honor
SPEAKER:	Levi Lusko
SCRIPTURE:	Hebrews 13:4
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2230

MESSAGE SUMMARY

From crude advertising campaigns to raunchy entertainment, sex has been taken captive to a mindset of dishonor and shame. In truth, sex is a gift from God. He knows best how it can be fully enjoyed—within the marriage relationship. As we ponder the biblical principles of honor and integrity, we gain a deeper understanding of God's plan for purity before marriage and a vibrant sex life afterward.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. We are desperate to hear straight talk from God about these issues
 1. Sexual purity
 2. Life and death, sex and romance
 3. Single
 - a. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure
 - b. Easier to build a godly marriage than to fix a broken one
 4. Broken marriage: God specializes in fixing things that are broken

B. Honor

1. Christians called to strength and honor: Honor those to whom honor is due (see Romans 13:7)
2. Honor: to value highly, to esteem to elevate something, say its worth a lot
3. To mark our lives
 - a. Honorable in all things
 - b. Children to honor parents
 - c. Parents to honor children
 - d. Employees their bosses
 - e. Citizens their government
 - f. Honor those in authority
 - g. Spiritual leaders
 - h. Those who teach God's word double honor
4. Honor is in short supply
 - a. Basic levels of respect have diminished
 - b. From *Lassie* and *Leave It To Beaver* to *Modern Family* and *Breaking Bad*
5. Relationships
 - a. Young men treat ladies with all honor and purity
 - b. Husbands honor wives as the weaker vessel or your prayers will be hindered (see 1 Peter 3:7)
 - c. Ladies: clothe yourself with honor (Proverbs 31:25)

- d. Wives honor husbands with loving submission (see Ephesians 5:24)
 - 6. Sex and marriage to be honored
- C. Sex
 - 1. Marriage is honorable and the marriage bed undefiled
 - a. Sex is to be elevated, lifted up
 - b. Sex is not defiled, dirty, gross , or wrong
 - 2. Nothing wrong with a strong sex drive
 - a. How God made you
 - b. Enjoy and appreciate it
 - c. Sex is a gift
 - i. The first gift
 - ii. God gave Adam a naked wife
 - iii. "Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (Genesis 2:23)
 - 3. Pleasurable and powerful
 - a. Came with rules so we don't harm ourselves
 - b. Adultery and fornication unleash God's judgment on our life
 - c. If done right it brings blessing
 - d. If done wrong, reduce a man to a crust of bread and fills his mouth with gravel
 - 4. Having a sex drive a good thing; letting sex drive a mistake
- II. Sex Is More Than a Physical Activity
 - A. Involves you on the deepest level
 - B. Plan: fun now, "right thing" later
 - 1. Want the best of both worlds
 - 2. Not how it works
 - 3. No undo button on what you've done or who you've become
 - 4. You can be forgiven, but consequences remain
 - C. "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body." (1 Corinthians 6:18)
 - 1. Sexual immorality harms you
 - 2. Sexual immorality harms your spouse, you are one flesh
 - D. You become one in a unique way
 - 1. Emotional, spiritual, mental bonding takes place
 - 2. Can't be undone
 - 3. Exclude these intimacies and you become numb
 - 4. Incapable of experiencing the intimacy God intended
 - 5. Bring your past into new relationships
 - E. Pornography
 - 1. "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:28)
 - 2. Causes depression and poor physical health (according to report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
 - 3. Why guys are doing worse than girls in every way: porn and video games (CNN report on the Demise of Guys, citing a Stanford University Study)
 - a. Rewiring men's minds
 - b. Arousal addictions
 - i. Spike epinephrine and serotonin

- ii. Cause mind to crave them
 - iii. Not more of the same, but more of the different
 - 4. Changes who you are
 - 5. Rots relationships from the inside out
 - 6. Not only viewing, but reading porn
 - a. Romance novels among highest-selling categories of literature
 - b. Erotic fiction accounts for 55% of all paperback books
 - c. Fifty Shades of Grey, by E.L. James
- III. God Doesn't Want to Take Something from You—He Has Something for You
 - A. God is good
 - 1. He is a Giver of good gifts
 - 2. If He says, "No," it is because He has something better
 - B. Illustration of Joshua
 - 1. God promised Israel the victory at Jericho
 - 2. He wanted all the reward
 - 3. If they took the booty, God would unleash a curse
 - 4. Achan stole treasure
 - a. He saw
 - b. He coveted
 - c. He took
 - d. He hid
 - e. Same progression as David with Bathsheba
 - 5. Curse unleashed; Israel lost at Ai
 - a. Blessing in reverse
 - b. God removed His hand of strength
 - 6. Achan exposed and executed
 - 7. Second time the treasure was theirs: "Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves." (Joshua 8:2)
 - a. Jericho was a test; a tithe
 - b. When you give God the first, the rest is blessed
 - 8. Achan never saw God's blessing
 - a. He settled for a hastily grabbed treasure (dirty, secret, forbidden, guilt)
 - b. Could have had more
 - 9. Single people may think God says, "Not ever" when He says, "Not yet"
 - 10. God wants the marriage bed to be enjoyable and undefined; not haunted by the past
 - a. God knows best
 - b. His rules are for a reason
- IV. Desire Can Keep You from Your Destiny
 - A. The full enjoyment of sex isn't the greatest issue
 - B. Example of Esau (Genesis 25)
 - 1. Oldest son of Isaac
 - 2. God planned a great nation
 - 3. Very different from his twin, Jacob
 - 4. Sold his birthright for soup
 - 5. He allowed the immediate to overshadow the ultimate
 - C. We give up what God wants for us for immediate gratification

1. God has a calling on our life
2. We have the Holy Spirit
3. We are called to be pillars of righteousness
4. Impact the world for Christ
- D. We must be pure in order to be powerful
- E. We must be sanctified in order to be strong
- F. Samson traded his hair and eyes for an evening with Delilah
- V. Purity Is Worth Fighting For
 - A. Not easy;
 1. it's the fight of your life
 2. Olympic athlete Lolo Jones regarding her virginity: "It's the hardest thing I've ever done in my life — harder than training for the Olympics, harder than graduating from college, has been to stay a virgin before marriage." HBO's *Real Sports*
 - B. Christian life is not a playground, it's a battleground
 1. Enemy wants to remove our breastplate of righteousness
 2. He hates you
 3. If he can't get you to hell, he wants you to live like hell and not bring anyone with you to heaven
 - C. We fight from victory
 1. Christ wins
 2. "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)
 3. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4)
 4. Spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:10-18)
 5. Body of Christ
 6. Word of God
 7. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)
 - a. Run from temptation
 - b. Cut off sin
 - D. We serve a God of hope, restoration, new beginnings
 1. Samson's hair grew back (see Judges 16:22)
 - a. Some consequences stayed: he remained blind
 - b. His spiritual power grew back with his hair
 - c. His greatest victory came after his biggest failure
 2. Do not harden your heart

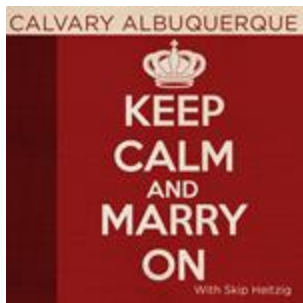
Publications referenced: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study; "The Demise of Guys" CNN report

Figures referenced: Lolo Jones

Cross references: Genesis 2:23; Genesis 25; Joshua 8:2; Judges 16:22; Proverbs 31:25; Matthew 5:28; Romans 13:7; 2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 5:24; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Corinthians 6:18; James 4:7; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 John 4:4

Topic: Sexual purity

Keywords: sex, purity, pornography



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Homemaker or Homebreaker?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Titus 2; Proverbs 31
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2359

MESSAGE SUMMARY

We are surrounded by hostile, home-shattering influences in our world today. The supportive elements of society no longer shade and protect us (like they once did). The Christian home must blossom in a field of weeds! Today I'd like to speak to wives in their role as homemakers (fightin' words for some). Let's take a twenty-first century look at a centuries-old struggle and why God honors the role of the homemaker.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Secret to a good marriage
 1. Going all in
 2. Working through details, roles, responsibilities
 3. Heart in the home
 - a. Forces at work to destroy the home and longing toward it
 - b. Where is your heart?
 - i. Doesn't matter what you have, but whom you have
 - ii. All about relationships
 4. "A little house well-filled, a little garden well-tilled, and a little wife well willed are great riches." –Benjamin Franklin
 - B. Homemaker
 1. An excellent wife
 2. A virtuous wife (NKJV)
 3. A wife of noble character (NIV)
 4. "The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands." (Proverbs 14:1)
 - C. Setting
 1. Author: Paul
 2. Letter to Titus
 - a. Titus a young, non-Jewish convert
 - b. Titus came to Christ through Paul's influence
 - c. Titus worker with Paul
 - d. Titus sent to Crete to get the churches in order
 3. Content: Social and Spiritual Order of the Christian family and Christian leaders
 - a. Roles and responsibilities of Christian leadership
 - b. Roles and responsibilities of older men
 - c. Roles and responsibilities of older women

- d. Roles and responsibilities of younger men
- e. Roles and responsibilities of younger women
- 4. Roles generally unknown in pagan culture
 - a. Received opposition
 - b. Converts had no model to follow
 - c. These words their only source

II. Ancient and Modern Opposition

A. The Ancient Greco-Roman Culture

- 1. Two Extremes
 - a. Male chauvinism
 - b. Female feminism
- 2. Men: autocratic
 - a. Could be tyrants
 - b. *Patria Potestas*: absolute rule of the husband/father
 - i. Completely in charge of the lives and affairs of his family
 - ii. Right to sell family members as slaves
 - iii. Enact capital punishment on wives and children
 - c. Wife tantamount to a slave
 - i. Roman men categorized them with the *imbilitas*; imbiciles
 - ii. Women not included in census figures
 - iii. Many times didn't bear their own names
 - a. Assumed the name of their father in feminine form (e.g., Julius to Julia)
 - b. *Secunda*: the second
 - c. *Tertia*: the third
 - iv. Created angst in the heart of women
- 3. Feminist movement: backlash
 - a. According to Juvenal, women joined in men's hunting expeditions "with spear in hand, breasts exposed, took to pig sticking"
 - b. Women saw marriage and raising children as a restriction of their rights
 - i. Resented bearing children for fear it would ruin the looks of the bodies
 - ii. Asserting their independence
 - iii. Leaving their husbands
 - iv. Leaving their homes
 - c. Demanded jobs traditionally held by men
 - d. Wore men's clothing and hairstyles
 - e. Discarded all signs of femininity
- 4. Culture that would not accept biblical model of the Christian family

B. The Modern Western Culture

- 1. Very similar in many ways to ancient culture
- 2. Postwar/baby boomer era
 - a. Husbands back from World War II went back to work
 - b. Spending more time away from family to achieve the "American Dream"
 - c. Culture more enamored with more stuff, money, and gadgets: materialism
- 3. Growing sense of feminism

- a. Early American culture
 - i. Women not allowed to vote
 - ii. No access to good education
 - iii. No access to good occupation
- b. During World War II women went to factory jobs vacated by men at war
- c. After war, women laid off
- d. Divorce rate sky-rocketed: doubled between 1965-1975
- e. Fallout
 - i. Single-parent homes
 - ii. Single mothers working to pay bills, buy food, etc.
 - iii. Today, 68% of women with children under 18 are in the workforce
 - iv. 1960, 28%
 - v. According to *Megatrends for Women*, 10% of American families are traditional families with husband as breadwinner and wife as caretaker
 - vi. "The family unit must go because it is the family that has oppressed and enslaved women."—Kate Millett, *Sexual Politics*
- 4. Christians have an opportunity to let the ideal family—as written in the Bible—shine

III. New Testament Instruction (Titus 2)

A. The Wife's Relationship to Her Family

- 1. Mature women
 - a. Mothers and grandmothers
 - b. Mentor and model of godliness
- 2. Love husbands and children
 - a. Husbands first
 - i. Reminder of priorities
 - ii. When women become mothers, they may forget they are also a wife
 - b. Love children: "The best gift you can ever give to your children is to love their father" —Josh McDowell
 - c. Love
 - a. Not ἀγαπάω; agapao, agape
 - b. Φίλανδρος; philandros, phileo - love that involves emotion, friendship, delight in being together
 - c. Love of a wife can cause her husband to blossom
 - d. Bitterness of a wife can cause her husband to wither
- 3. "If your Christianity doesn't work at home, it doesn't work. Don't export it."—Howard Hendricks
- 4. Discreet: wise, common sense
- 5. Chaste: holy, pure in thought and action
- 6. In control of her role
 - a. Problem in marriage: role reminding
 - b. Instead of minding own role, telling spouse about theirs
 - c. Memorize the other's role, while sometimes neglecting their own
- 7. Good

8. The Word of God not be blasphemed
 - a. People are watching you
 - b. For many, their only insight to Christianity is watching the marriage relationship
9. Submission
 - a. Like traffic, someone has to get in line behind the headship
 - b. Husbands role: leadership
 - c. Wife's role submissive to her husband
 - d. Only a monster has two heads
 - e. God the Father is the Head of Christ who submits to the Father
 - f. Husband submits to Christ
 - g. Wife submits to her husband
- B. The Wife's Relationship to Her Home: Homemaker
 1. Home
 - a. Not her 24/7 dwelling
 - b. Not her prison
 - c. Her priority
 2. οἰκουπόυς; oikourgous - keepers at home
 - a. οἶκος; oikos: a house, household
 - b. ἔργον; ergon: work, labor
 3. Focus of the wife's life is the home and family
- IV. Old Testament Illustration (Proverbs 31)
 - A. Her Description
 1. Given by a woman through her husband
 - a. Shows a woman what she's to be like
 - b. Shows a man what he's to look for
 2. Who can find?
 - a. What is it that you value?
 - b. How do you measure the worth of a woman?
 - c. What traits and qualities give her value?
 - . Her appearance
 - i. Her fashion
 - ii. Some men looking for virtual woman: Unreal expectations
 3. Bible emphasizes not the outward appearance but inward qualities
 - a. God invented beauty
 - b. Inward more important
 - c. "Beauty is passing"
 4. Good not evil
 - a. Has her husband's best interests at heart
 - b. Doesn't want to defame him
 - c. Keeps her vows
 - d. His success is her joy
 5. Distaff: implement for sewing
 6. Can't do it all in a day
 - B. Her Devotion
 1. Lifetime description
 - a. Home is her priority, not her prison

- b. Letter to evangelist Gypsy Smith from mother of 12 who wanted to be a minister: "You already have a congregation of 12"
- 2. True fulfillment comes from the supreme effort of giving all she can to the home: Hard Work
- 3. The payoff
 - a. What goes around, comes around
 - b. If you invest your life in your home and husband during the first half, they will appreciate it later
- 4. Husband will be respected and esteemed because of what you've made him
- 5. Fictitious letter from God to women:

"When I created the heavens and the earth, I spoke them into being.
 When I created man, I formed him and breathed life into his nostrils.
 But you, woman, I fashioned after I breathed the breath of life into man because your nostrils are too delicate.
 I allowed a deep sleep to come over him so I could patiently and perfectly fashion you.

Man was put to sleep so that he could not interfere with the creativity.
 From one bone, I fashioned you. I chose the bone that protects man's life.
 I chose the rib, which protects his heart and lungs and supports him, as you are meant to do.

Around this one bone, I shaped you..... I modeled you. I created you perfectly and beautifully. Your characteristics are as the rib, strong yet delicate and fragile.

You provide protection for the most delicate organ in man, the heart.
 His heart is the center of his being; his lungs hold the breath of life.
 The ribcage will allow itself to be broken before it will allow damage to the heart.

Support man as the rib cage supports the body.
 You were not taken from his feet, to be under him, nor were you taken from his head, to be above him. You were taken from his side, to stand beside him and be close to his side."

Greek terms: ἀγαπάω; agapao, agape - unconditional love; Φίλανδρος; philandros, phileo - love that involves emotion, friendship, delight in being together; οἰκουρούς; oikourgous - keepers at home; οἶκος; oikos: a house, household; ἔργον; ergon: work, labor

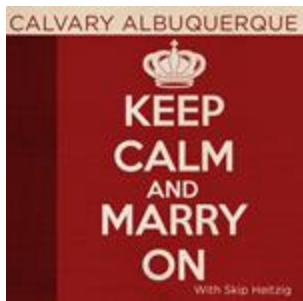
Publications referenced: Megatrends for Women, by Patricia Aburdene; Sexual Politics by Kate Millett

Figures referenced: Benjamin Franklin; Josh McDowell; Howard Hendricks; Gypsy Smith

Cross references: Proverbs 14:1

Topic: Role of a wife

Keywords: marriage, wife, homemaker, women, woman, submission, housewife



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Needed: Real Men!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Joshua 24:1-15
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2361

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The definition of what a real man is will vary from person to person, background to background, and ideology to ideology. But one thing is certain: A man who *really* is godly and *really* is a spiritual leader and *really* serves his family is RARE! Today we consider the aged leader of the ancient Hebrew nation, who was calling on the men of his generation to become real men. Joshua instructed those men to do three things.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Leadership
 1. Your choice
 - a. To be one of thousands of disappointments
 - b. To be one of few successes
 2. "What's wrong with America? Lousy leadership. Not just in government or politics but in the business, labor, service, and manufacturing fields. Education and other big institutions and the media too highlight a crisis in leadership especially among men." *The Boston Globe* "Wanted: Some Stouthearted Men" by David Nyhan
 3. What is a real man?
 - a. Various answers
 - b. Our culture doesn't know
 - c. "One theme that comes through loud and clear: the male is in crisis, buffeted by the woman's movement, constrained by a traditional and internalized definition of masculinity. Men literally don't know who they are, what women want from them, or even what they want from themselves." Jim Levine
 - d. Fighter? Aggressive? Macho? Passive? Retrained? Quiet? Combination?
 - e. Jesus Christ
 - i. Real, gentle, sweet
 - ii. Rebuke hypocrites
 - iii. Overturn tables in the temple
 - iv. National Magazine survey about what is a real man: Jesus received more votes than anyone else: caring attitude, intelligence, admirable morality, sensitivity to others
 - B. Joshua
 1. A leader speaking to leaders

2. Formal gathering at an important place
 3. Second in command under Moses (i.e, v.p. assistant pastor); not "the man"
 4. 100 years old
 5. Passing on the mantle of leadership to a new generation
 6. "Advanced in years" (Joshua 13:1)
- II. Present Yourself to God (v. 1)
- A. In the Presence of God
 1. Took up their station before God to be examined and commissioned before Him
 2. Shechem
 - a. Important place of history
 - b. Inspire spiritual accountability
 - c. First covenant with Abraham
 - d. Bones of Joseph buried
 - e. Joshua previously brought the people there to reaffirm the covenant
 - f. Tabernacle pitched there
 - B. In the Company of Others
 1. Stand by others and be challenged by God's truth
 2. Israel: rough past and rocky future: wants to give leadership into hands of real men
 3. Spiritual man
 - a. Gathers with other men
 - b. Not afraid or ashamed of being exposed to the light of God's truth
 - c. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)
 4. Not just self examination
 5. Let God reveal what is really going on
 - a. "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart." (Psalm 26:2)
 - b. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties;" (Psalm 139:23)
 6. Divine appointment
 - a. Ask the Holy Spirit to search deeply; to shine the spotlight of His holiness into our lives
 - b. Most of us don't like to look inside of ourselves for the same reason we don't like to look at a letter containing bad news
 7. Reveal failures
 - a. Help me to be who you want me to be
 - b. "See if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:24)
- III. Peruse Your Spiritual Journey (vv. 2-13)
- A. Where You Came From—Mercy
 1. Peruse: examine carefully; consider in depth
 2. Review history
 - a. Geographically
 - b. Spiritually
 3. God speaking through Joshua

4. Hindsight to produce insight
 5. Good to look back and remember the past (as long as you don't let it weigh you down)
 6. The past, properly used, can be a great motivation
 - a. Not a weight; a wing
 - b. Not an anchor; a sail
- B. What You Have—*Grace*
1. "Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug." (Isaiah 51:1)
 2. In touch with what God has done
 3. Learn to recite personal testimony
 - a. Who you were before you met Jesus Christ
 - b. Why you were attracted to Him
 - c. How He changed your life
 - d. What you've become
- IV. Pick Your Course of Action (vv. 14-15)
- A. The Choice Must be Personal
1. They had a tendency to backslide
 2. Must make a public choice
 3. Now, therefore
 - a. Based on all that's been said
 - b. The logical result of what God has done
 - c. Every truth we are exposed to should have a "Now, therefore"
 - d. Make a choice to implement the truth
 - e. If you do not, you choose not to implement it
 - f. Danger of hearing, marginalizing and having a calloused heart
 4. You are the summation of the choices you have made
 5. Fear the Lord
 - a. Reverential awe
 - b. Includes a real fear that somehow you are not pleasing God
 - c. Lack of fear of God in many Christian families
 - a. Fear of man: What do people think?
 - b. What does God think? What does He want me to do?
 - c. Wrongly react in the fear of man rather than respond in the fear of God
 6. Poll of congregation:
 - a. 90% relationship questions
 - b. Christians not "playing" according to God's "Rule Book"
- B. The Choice Must be Total
1. Put away the God's your father's served
 2. Stop emulating the world in your relationships
 - a. Worldly values
 - b. Worldly examples
 - c. World doesn't believe in moral absolutes
 - d. World redefines the family
 3. What is molding you? What are you trying to be like
 4. Successful family

- a. Firm choice
 - b. Hard work
 - c. God's grace
5. "Me and my house"
- a. Leader: covering
 - b. Your relationship with God must spill over and affect every other relationship in life
 - c. "If your father or mother, your sister and brother, if the very cat and dog in the house are not happier for your being a Christian, it is a question whether you really are." – Hudson Taylor
6. Spent time with the household
- a. "If homes are going to survive, it will be because husbands and fathers again place their families at the highest level on their system of priorities." –James Dobson
 - b. Study by Urie Bronfenbrenner:
 - . Fathers thought they spent 15-20 minutes daily with child
 - i. Average time a middleclass father spends with his children 37 seconds per day. Direct interaction was 2.7 encounters daily at 10-15 seconds each"
 - c. Average preschool child watches 30-50 hours of TV per week
7. "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you--'a land flowing with milk and honey.' Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."
(Deuteronomy 6:1-6)
- a. Believe them
 - b. Live them
 - c. Discuss them
 - d. Watch your children reap the benefit
8. Takes a holy man in the home to lead them in a godly manner.

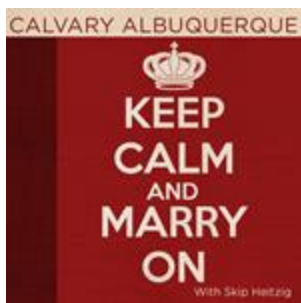
Publications referenced: *The Boston Globe* "Wanted: Some Stouthearted Men" by David Nyhan; *Psychology Today* Article (title unknown), by Jim Levine

Figures referenced: Hudson Taylor; James Dobson; Urie Bronfenbrenner

Cross references: Deuteronomy 6:1-6; Joshua 13:1; Isaiah 51:1; Psalm 26:2; Psalm 139:23; Psalm 139:24; Romans 12:1

Topic: Leadership

Keywords: husband, marriage, marriage roles, Joshua



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	How to Have a Love Affair with Your Spouse - Part I
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Proverbs 5
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2363

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Being intimate with someone involves more than just sex. Intimacy is a sense of caring and affection in which one can be totally vulnerable without the fear of being hurt or misunderstood. Intimacy is essential if a marriage is going to thrive. How about your marriage? Do these following three elements that foster intimacy exist in your marriage?

DETAILED NOTES

III. Introduction

- A. Marriages that begin well don't always stay that way or end that way
 - 1. Begins: flowers, love notes, breakfast in bed, opening doors
 - 2. Later: sleep back to back, takeout, sweat pants, slammed doors
- B. Sex
 - 0. Sensitive, biblical topic
 - 1. Place and priority in marriage
 - 2. Cannot be discussed by itself
 - . Related to every other part of marriage
 - a. More than spice and sizzle; need substance to build on
- C. Setting
 - 0. King Solomon giving son "the talk"
 - 1. Disastrous effects of sexual promiscuity (vv.1-14)
 - . Before marriage
 - a. During marriage
 - 2. Delightful results of marital intimacy (vv.15-23)
- D. Sex within marriage vs. sex outside marriage
 - 0. Water
 - . Inside
 - i. Pure water from a well
 - ii. Delight
 - iii. River
 - a. Outside
 - i. Polluted water from a sewer
 - ii. Destroy
 - iii. Swamp
 - 1. Soil: dark, nutrient rich
 - . Inside: garden

- a. Outside: white couch
 - 2. Fire
 - . Inside: fireplace
 - i. Contained
 - ii. Controlled
 - iii. Warmth
 - iv. Serenity
 - v. Satisfaction
 - a. Outside: fire on the couch: burn the house down
- IV. Magnify Your Mutual Covenant (v. 18)
 - . Youth
 - 0. Not just young people
 - 1. Those who made covenant in youth that lasts throughout a lifetime
 - 2. Monogamous, lifelong relationship
 - 3. Married at age 14-16 in Solomon's day
 - 4. We choose spouse; parents chose in Solomon's day
 - A. Man married television
 - 0. 42 year old Australian in England, Mitch Hallen
 - 1. "My TV gives me countless hours of pleasure without fussing, fighting, or back chat."
 - 2. Watching TV easier than working through marriage
 - B. Wedding ceremonies in strange places
 - 0. Bungee jumping
 - 1. Airplane
 - 2. Roller coaster: appropriate
 - C. Covenant makes a marriage stable
 - 0. Word "covenant"
 - . Implied
 - a. Used over 300 times in the Old Testament
 - b. A formal agreement with binding force
 - c. Concept of covenant runs Genesis-Revelation: a crimson thread
 - d. Bible: a covenant book
 - e. God: a covenant God
 - f. God's people: a covenant people
 - I. Marriage is a covenant
 - . "To deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words, who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God." (Proverbs 2:16-17)
 - a. Covenant between husband, wife, and God
 - b. "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant." (Malachi 2:14)
 - c. Binding agreement
 - d. Marriage not just part of life; all in, total commitment every day
 - e. No back door or escape hatch: Till death do us part
 - f. Doesn't end problems; many begin with marriage

- g. Safety and intimacy begin when covenant begins
- h. "For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God." (Ruth 1:16)
- i. "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)
- j. "Testing the waters" is culture, not covenant
- k. Preponderance of research shows successful marriages entered by people with a sense of permanence
- l. Sociologists: "People living together first before marriage are more apt to fail in their marriage than couples who move in together after they have said their vows."
- m. "Studies show, based on 50 years of data, that couples who live together before marriage have a 50 percent greater chance of divorce than those who don't. Those who cohabit also have a less satisfying and more unstable marriage. Research has found that those who lived together later regretted having violated their moral standard and felt a loss of personal freedom to exit out the back door. Furthermore and in keeping with the theme of marital bonding they have stolen a level of marital intimacy that is unwarranted at that point or hasn't been validated by the degree of commitment to one another."
 - i. "Stolen a level of intimacy"
 - ii. "A foolish woman is clamorous; she is simple, and knows nothing. For she sits at the door of her house, on a seat by the highest places of the city, to call to those who pass by, who go straight on their way: 'Whoever is simple, let him turn in here'; and as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, 'Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.' But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell." (Proverbs 9:13-18)

V. Maintain Marital Enjoyment (vv. 15-20)

. Sex Is God Given

- 0. God's idea: great idea
 - 1. "Pleasure is God's invention, not the devil's."—C.S. Lewis
 - 2. Devil likes to hijack what God invents
 - 3. "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." (Genesis 2:25)
 - 4. Words describing sexual delight and satisfaction
 - . Cistern
 - a. Well
 - b. Streams
 - c. Fountain
 - d. Song of Solomon: fountain of gardens, well of living waters, streams

A. Sex Must Be God Governed

- 0. Babies

- . Procreation
 - a. "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth." (Genesis 1:28)
 - I. Bonding
 - . Satisfaction
 - a. Nothing bonds as deeply
 - b. Satisfied, enraptured
 - c. Emotions, intellect spirit
 - d. "Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived" (Genesis 4:1)
 - e. A means of getting to know each other in the deepest way
- B. Sex Is Connected To Everything Else
 - 0. Cannot be separated from covenant unity
 - I. Sexual problems aren't always sexual problems, but indicators of other, deeper problems
 - . Like a dashboard warning light
 - a. "Conflicts, quarrels, bitter words will in time have an adverse affect on sexual harmony. One reason why it appears that sexual adjustment is difficult to achieve is that failure in any one of several of the other major areas of marital life is reflected in physical relationships. Generally a couple which has achieved a satisfactory cooperative framework in which to face all of their problems will find a minimum of difficulties in coming together sexually."—James Peterson
 - 2. If you want to have a satisfying sex life, try a little tenderness the other 23 ½ hours of the day
 - 3. Men are microwaves; women are Crock Pots
 - . Men are aroused quickly and visually
 - a. Men don't necessarily require touch
 - b. Men must always guard what they see and think about
 - c. Women don't get stimulated visually
 - d. Women need soft touch, tender words, meaningful activities
 - e. Physical enjoyment can't be rushed; must be cultivated tenderly
 - f. Husbands who are kind only in the evening to get sex create resentment
 - 4. Physical and emotional well-being go hand in hand
- VI. Make a Spiritual Commitment (vv. 21-23)
 - . Understand God's Interest
 - 0. God sees everything
 - I. God knows everything
 - . Intimacy
 - a. Accountability
 - A. Request God's Involvement
 - 0. Keep Him front and center
 - I. Keep you from sin
 - 2. Makes marriage strong
 - . Spiritually-minded people have better marriages than other couples
 - i. Intimacy is greater

- ii. Sexual pleasure is higher
- a. According to Family Life Conference, Christians generally experience a higher degree of sexual enjoyment than non-Christians
- b. *Redbook* "Sexual Pleasures Survey" of 100,000 women: "Sexual satisfaction is related significantly to spiritual belief. With notable consistency, the greater the intensity of a woman's spiritual convictions, the likelier she is to be highly satisfied with sexual pleasures of marriage."

VII. Application

- . Don't leave god out of your marriage—it's His covenant too
- A. Don't neglect each other's physical needs; don't neglect each other's emotional needs
- B. To be a good husband/wife, be a good Christian
- C. Relationships are the irreducible minimum
 - 0. With God: vertical
 - I. With people: horizontal

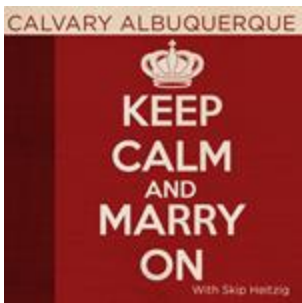
Publications referenced: *Redbook* "Sexual Pleasures Survey"

Figures referenced: Mitch Hallen; C.S. Lewis; James Peterson

Cross references: Genesis 1:28; Genesis 2:25; Genesis 4:1; Ruth 1:16; Proverbs 2:16-17; Proverbs 9:13-18; Malachi 2:14; Hebrews 13:5

Topic: Sex

Keywords: marriage, sex, covenant

	SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
	MESSAGE:	How to Have a Love Affair with Your Spouse - Part 2
	SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
	SCRIPTURE:	Proverbs 5:15-21; Song_of_Solomon 1:1-7:13
	URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2365

MESSAGE SUMMARY

For a majority of married couples, the word *enduring* sums up their nuptial experience. But let me offer another word, the idea of which comes straight from Scripture itself: It's the word *enjoying*. For those of you who merely *endure* your marriage, you could *enjoy* it. Using two of the writings of King Solomon, we will explore four areas that healthy married couples could and should be experiencing enjoyment in.

DETAILED NOTES

VIII. Introduction

- . Happily ever after
 - 0. Fairy tales: knights in shining armor and beautiful princesses
 - 1. Real life
 - . Good, happy, satisfying
 - a. not happily ever after
- A. Many don't enjoy but endure
 - 0. CNN poll of 24,000 over 15 years: people no happier after married
 - 1. Daily Mirror 65% divorce rate attributed to mediocre marriage
 - 2. Endure some things to get to the enjoyment
- B. Holy Spirit through Solomon gives us a better way
 - 0. Solomon wrote 3000 proverbs (only 313 are in the book of Proverbs)
 - 1. Prolific: 1005 songs
 - 2. Solomon
 - . Royalty
 - a. Spoiled kid
 - b. Penchant for volume
 - c. Bankroll: anything he wanted; curious about life
 - i. Male and female singers
 - ii. Gardens
 - iii. Zoo
 - d. Women
 - i. 700 wives
 - ii. 300 concubines
 - e. "And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore." (1 Kings 4:29)

- 3. Song of Solomon
 - . Song of Songs
 - a. To his first wife
 - b. Marriage as God intended
- C. Rejoice (Proverbs 5:18)
 - 0. Enjoy the relationship
 - 1. Four pillars of a balanced relationship
- IX. Enjoy Each Other's Company (Proverbs 5:15-19; Song_of_Solomon 1:4, 7)
 - . With: togetherness
 - 0. Context: physically
 - 1. Overarching theme: husband and wife enjoying each others company
 - 2. Intimacy due to harmony
 - 3. A first not a problem
 - 4. Later maintaining, cultivating, nurturing relationship
 - A. Song of Solomon: bride and husband speaking
 - 0. Young girl attracted to him
 - . Attracted to character
 - a. Beauty is passing
 - b. Personality is forever
 - c. Doesn't want to chase after him
 - 1. Longing to be together doesn't continue in this way
 - . Chapters 5-6 argument, conflict resolution
 - i. 25% of the book is conflict resolution
 - ii. Long to be together
 - a. Not hormones
 - b. Commitment
 - c. Mature
 - a. Thrill of discovery wears off
 - i. Idiosyncrasies once attractive become annoying
 - ii. "Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterwards."—Benjamin Franklin
 - B. Continue leaving, cleaving, weaving
 - 0. Leaving father and mother
 - 1. Cleaving to each other
 - 2. Weaving through a lifetime
 - . Wanting to be together regularly
 - a. Ruth Graham of Billy Graham: "Fifty percent of Billy Graham is better than 100% of any other man."
 - b. Maximize time together
 - i. Date nights
 - ii. Phone calls
 - iii. Texting
 - C. Witness is a good witness of a solid marriage
- X. Enjoy Each Other Emotionally (Proverbs 5:18; Song 1:9ff, 2:14)
 - . Different emotionally from your spouse: enjoy it
 - 0. Emotion
 - 1. נָחַם; samach: brighten, gladden, make joyful

2. "Live joyfully with the wife whom you love" (Ecclesiastes 9:9)
- A. Some live routinely, insipidly, enduringly, grimacingly
- B. Two things make a marriage miserable: men and women
- C. Hard work
 0. Not good because you say it's good
 1. Not good because you want it to be
 2. Not good because you know how to make it good
 3. Work, commitment, choice
 4. Emotion of rejoicing is the caboose which follows the engine of choice.
- D. Men tend to neglect their wives
 0. Focus on your wife and what she needs
 1. Filly (Song_of_Solomon 1:9)
 - . Compliment
 - a. Solomon loved his horses
 - b. Men: If you have enough horse sense to treat your wife like a thoroughbred, she won't turn into a nag.
 2. Doves eyes (Song_of_Solomon 1:15)
 - . Focus on only one thing at a time
 - a. Eyes for me only: I have eyes for you only
 - b. "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely" (Song_of_Solomon 2:14)
- E. Women tend to nag their husbands
 0. Watch your words
 - . Tear down
 - a. Build up
 1. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver." (Proverbs 25:11)
 2. "A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike;" (Proverbs 27:15)
 - . Leaky roof leaves a home unprotected
 - a. A nagging wife leaves a marriage unprotected
 3. Replace nagging words with kind and gracious words
 - . "So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth." (Luke 4:22)
 - a. Old grid
 - i. It's true!
 - a. Is it helpful?
 - b. "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful." (1 Corinthians 6:12)
 - ii. He deserves it!
 - iii. Feels good to say it!
 - b. New grid
 - a. Can it be said kindly?
 - b. Is now the right time?
 - c. Grace: unmerited, underserved favor
 - d. Give husband words he doesn't deserve

- XI. Enjoy Each Other Spiritually (Proverbs 5:18, 21)
 - . Live under the reality that God knows all we do, think, say
 - A. Balance of relationship
 - 0. Physical attraction
 - 1. Attracted to personality
 - 2. Depth of relationship with the Lord
 - B. Family that prays together stays together
 - 0. Half of marriages in the U.S. end in divorce
 - 1. Lower among those who attend church regularly
 - 2. Divorce much less likely if couple prays together
 - C. "I do" harder to undo if relationship has a spiritual core
 - D. Focus on self makes a marriage miserable
 - 0. Marriage is about Him
 - 1. God's design; submit to Him
 - 2. Devote self to make the relationship great
- XII. Enjoy Each Other Sexually (Proverbs 5:19, Song 5:10ff; 7:1ff)
 - . God invented sex
 - A. Water: refreshed invigorate
 - B. "As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love." (Proverbs 5:19)
 - 0. Satisfy: satiated, saturated, have one's drink or one's fill
 - 1. Love: love making; physical act of intercourse
 - 2. Enraptured: intoxicated with, swerve, meander, reel, roll
 - 3. Always: frequency
 - . Easy, natural, mutual: joy producing
 - a. Pressured demanding selfish is devastating
 - C. God is not a prude
 - 0. "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled" (Hebrews 13:4)
 - 1. Sex is sacred
 - 2. Sex should be enjoyed
 - 3. Bible condemns elicit sex; not all sex
 - . Like fire: outside the fireplace, burns life down
 - a. In the fireplace let it burn hot and passionate
 - D. Song of Solomon 5: the wedding night
 - 0. God made every part of the body
 - 1. He equipped us with a nervous system
 - 2. Created to be stimulated: "It is good"
 - E. Sex is God-given and must be God-guided
 - F. 'Lord, it is difficult to know what sex really is. Is it some demon sent to torment me or some delicious seducer from reality? It is neither of these, Lord. I know what sex is, it is body and spirit, it is passion and tenderness. It is strong embraces and gentle handholding. It is open nakedness and hidden mystery. It is joyful tears on a honeymooner's face. It is tears on a wrinkled face on a golden wedding anniversary. Sex is a quiet look across a room, a love note on a pillow, a rose lying on a breakfast plate, laughter in the night. Sex is life, not all of life, but wrapped up in the meaning of life. Sex is your good gift, oh God, to enrich life, to continue the race, to communicate, to show me who I am, to reveal my mate, to

cleanse through one flesh. Lord, some people say that sex and religion do not mix. But your word says that sex is good. Help me to keep it good in my life. Help me to be open about sex and still protect its mystery. Help me to see that sex is neither demon nor deity. Help me not to climb in a fantasy world with an imaginary sexual partner. Help me in the real world to love the people whom you have created. Teach me that my soul does not have to frown at sex for me to be a Christian. It is hard for many people to say, 'Thank God for sex,' because for them sex is more of a problem than a gift. They need to know that sex and gospel can be linked together again."—Harry Hollis Jr.

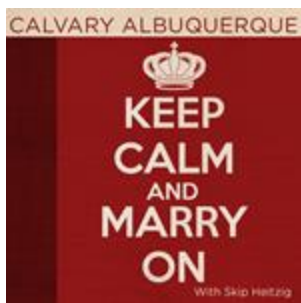
Hebrew terms: נָמַח; samach: brighten, gladden, make joyful

Figures referenced: Benjamin Franklin; Ruth Graham; Harry Hollace Jr.

Cross references: 1 Kings 4:29; Proverbs 25:11; Proverbs 27:15; Ecclesiastes 9:9; Song_of_Solomon 2:14; Luke 4:22; 1 Corinthians 6:12; Hebrews 13:4

Topic: Sex

Keywords: sex, marriage



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Weeds of Unfaithfulness in the Garden of Love
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Matthew 5:27-30
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2366

MESSAGE SUMMARY

A wise sage once remarked, "*Passion is like fire and water—they are good servants but bad masters!*" Sexual passion is like that, and every married couple needs to tend the garden of their love very carefully. That means pulling out the weeds that could lead to unfaithful behavior. Many a marriage has been burned in the fire of adultery or flooded with inordinate passion. Let's consider how our marriages can stay "adultery proof."

DETAILED NOTES

XIII. Introduction

- . *Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook*
 - 0. Useful material
 - 1. How to escape from a sinking car, How to fend off a shark, How to wrestle free from an alligator, How to win a sword fight, How to jump from a building into a dumpster, How to survive if your parachute fails to open
 - 2. You have to make sure that someone is jumping with you
 - 3. Presupposes
 - 0. that you know the information, you are familiar with it
 - 1. that someone is there with you
 - A. "Dear Abby"
 - 0. Someone wrote in wanting advice but not morals
 - 1. The only difference between animals and humans are morals
 - 2. Suggested they see a veterinarian
 - B. Lust and adultery—"the fire burning outside the fireplace"
 - 0. Solomon
 - . Solomon describes his marriage as a garden, and his wife as a garden enclosed (see Song_of_Solomon 4:12)
 - a. He was unfaithful, he had a problem in this area
 - 1. You
 - . May not have a problem in this area
 - a. Use this as information for preventative maintenance; information you can share with others
 - b. But don't be so quick to dismiss, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12)
 - c. Could be

- . You are actually having an affair
 - i. Considering having an affair
 - ii. You are so arrogant to think that no one person can satisfy you
 - a. Actor on talk show "what makes a great lover"
 - b. Someone who can satisfy woman all her life and be satisfied with one woman all his life
 - c. Not someone who goes from woman to woman — any dog can do that
2. Adultery (Matthew 5:27-30)
- . The battle of lust, Greek word: *epithumeó*— a strong desire
 - a. The Bible sometimes uses a "strong desire" for something good
 - . Longed to see Jesus (see Luke 17)
 - i. Jesus longed to be with his disciples for Passover (see Luke 22)
 - ii. A man desires the office of a bishop (see I Timothy 3)
 - b. Can be used for craving after something bad
 - . Children of Israel had a desire for evil things (see I Corinthians 10)
 - i. Sinful Lust (see Matthew 5:28)
3. Staying sexually pure in our society is extremely difficult
- . Every media outlet dishes it out non-stop
 - . Late-night programming
 - i. Viagra commercials
 - ii. Prime-time television
 - iii. One media research study found that one hour of prime-time depicts sex outside of marriage eight times more than any implication of sex in marriage
 - iv. Dirty books, magazines, movies, songs to feed a variety of dirty hearts and minds
 - a. "Chastity is the most unpopular of Christian virtues"—C.S. Lewis
 - . "I don't want to give up sex" man from England
 - i. Give sex over to God's control, God-guided
 - ii. Beautiful, young, blond, high school senior girl gives reason why she will stay sexually pure until marriage
 - i. Date—give flowers and candy
 - ii. Engaged—give something more valuable—diamonds
 - iii. Marriage—we give ourselves
 - iv. I want to give my whole self, the most precious thing I have to the man that I marry

XIV. Lust is a considerable problem

- . Jesus said "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'you shall not commit adultery'" (Matthew 5:27)
 - 0. 2000 years ago He said this
 - I. He was referring back to the Ten Commandments — the seventh commandment—written 1400 B.C.

- 2. It has always been a problem
 - 3. God put it in the top ten list, called the Ten Commandments
 - A. Punishment for someone caught in adultery—stoning to death
 - B. The children of Israel faced a sensual religious system as they went into the country
 - 0. Baal and Ashtoreth—male and female counterparts
 - 1. Worshiped by sexual acts underneath groves of trees
 - 2. Popular even around the children of Israel's time
 - 3. It was an issue for them
 - C. In the Greco-Roman culture
 - 0. Believe sex is a biological function
 - 1. There are no moral ties
 - 2. Temple of Aphrodite had 1000 temple prostitutes
 - 3. Term in Greek: korinthiasesthai—play the Corinthian, depicted in plays as a sex driven, drunken individual
 - 4. Greeks invented a word to describe, eros-to grab or grasp (grasp something to indulge myself); we get our term erotic or eroticism from it
 - D. Samson, King David, Absalom, Joseph were all tempted in this area; We are all human beings, created in God's image; We are sexual beings, God made us male and female (see Genesis 1:27); We are all sinful beings, all of us struggle against the world, the flesh, and the Devil
 - 0. Doctrine of depravity, mankind is fallen and every part of our being is tainted with sin
 - 1. Dr. Merville Vincent, Harvard Medical School said, "In God's view, I suspect we are all sexual deviants. I doubt there is anyone who has not had a lustful thought that deviated from God's perfect ideal of sexuality."
 - . No one except Jesus Christ has been sexually sinless
 - a. We can't come here with any "holier than thou" attitude
 - 2. Porn industry in our nation is a ten billion dollar per year industry
 - 3. One out of nine marriages that break up state that infidelity is the root cause
 - 4. The problem is on steroids now because of all the media outlets we have
- XV. Lust is a covert problem
- . Nobody sees lust
 - 0. Takes place in the mind, in the thought life
 - 1. Thoughts are the parents of the deeds
 - 2. The heart is the soil where the seed is planted
 - 3. Jesus said, "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman" (Matthew 5:28)
 - 4. They thought they were guiltless, they never committed the act
 - 5. Jesus goes to a deeper level: to the heart
 - A. Jesus is addressing men here. Why?
 - 0. Men are the principle offenders
 - 1. They are not the only offenders
 - 2. There can be lust of a woman for a woman, a man for a woman, a man for a woman and a woman for a man
 - 3. Current bestseller, *Fifty Shades of Grey*

- . Sold over 40 Million copies in 37 different countries
 - a. Outsold Harry Potter series
 - b. Dubbed "Mommy Porn"
 - c. Targeted at young women
 - d. Experts say it is very addictive
 - e. Addressing lustful thoughts not just in men but in women
 - B. Jesus did not condemn the temptation, but what we do with it
 - 0. The word used: "look" is present participle and denotes an ongoing look
 - 1. King David couldn't avoid seeing Bathsheba, but it was the lingering look and the fantasizing that led to adultery
 - 2. Psychological circles mistakenly believe that sexual fantasies are not damaging, they are harmless, and might not lead to anything
 - 3. Experts will tell you differently
 - 4. A recent article in *Psychology Today* says that where it matters is at the brain chemistry level
 - . That prolonged looking at sexual scenes hardwires the brain
 - . It changes the neuropath ways in a person's brain
 - i. They get locked in
 - ii. It's very addictive
 - iii. It leads to isolation and depression
 - 5. The mind is the battleground
 - 6. Can't say, "I'm just admiring God's creation," or, "I look, but I don't lust"
 - . Never see a guy look at a tree like that
 - a. Taxi driver "he that looketh upon a woman, loseth a fender"
 - b. He can lose much more
- XVI. Lust is a Consequential Problem
 - . "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell." Matthew 5:29
 - 0. Damage—Lust has damaging consequences
 - . Spiritually
 - . You can lose your peace, break fellowship with God
 - i. An unrepentant lifestyle of sin proves there is no relationship with God (see I Corinthians 6:9-10)
 - a. Physically
 - . Sexually transmitted diseases
 - i. Solomon writes to his son to stay away from immorality (see Proverbs 5)
 - b. Emotionally
 - . Suffer anxiety from all the deception
 - i. Guilt when you are discovered
 - ii. People rationalize their affair
 - iii. New relationship is based on deception
 - c. Relationally
 - . Can damage your spouse
 - i. Can damage your children
 - ii. Erodes family trust

- iii. Look at King David's children, Amnon and Absalom (see 2 Samuel 13 and 16)
 - d. Testimony
 - . Inside the church
 - i. Outside the church
 - ii. The whole church suffers (see 1 Corinthians 12:26)
 - iii. Every obedient Christian strengthens the church, every disobedient Christian weakens the church
 - iv. Hinders unbelievers from coming to Christ
 - v. No difference between the world and the church
 - vi. Prophet Nathan's point to David, "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme" 2 Samuel 12:14
 - vii. Sin is the most expensive thing in the world, you will pay the rest of your life
 - viii. Hollywood lies
 - e. Displeases the heart of God
 - . This should have been at the top of the list— this is the most important
 - i. God is usually the last one considered in an affair
 - ii. David after sin and confession cried out to God and admitted that the worst thing was that he had hurt the heart of God
 - iii. William Barclay writes, "sin becomes a crime not against law but against love"
 - iv. Not so much breaking God's law as breaking God's heart
 - v. Purity begins with loyalty to Him

XVII. Lust is a conquerable problem

- . "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out" Matthew 5:29
 - 0. Gross! That is what the thought of sin should do to you
 - 1. Is this literal?
 - . Jesus is speaking of the heart
 - a. Left hand and left eye and mind's eye will work twice as hard
 - b. The right side in Judaism is considered the best, deal radically with sin, get rid of it, cut it off
 - 2. Martin Luther once said, "You can't stop birds from flying around your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair."
 - 0. Burn the bridges of temptation
 - . Don't look at that magazine rack
 - a. Don't turn on the television
 - b. When speaking with the opposite sex, eye contact only
 - c. Couple shopping in the mall: "Was it worth the trouble you are now in?"
 - d. If you are married and getting close to someone of the opposite sex, dump them
 - e. Joseph ran out without his clothes to avoid temptation

- f. Keep appropriate distances between you and people and between you and technology
- g. Accountability partners you can trust with your confidences
- h. Flee temptation and don't give Satan your forwarding address
- i. Run away
- I. Build bridges of affection with your mate
 - . Marriages don't collapse suddenly, due to a slow leak over time
 - a. Date your spouse
 - b. Write a letter with pen and your handwriting and tell your spouse what you felt like the day you were married
 - c. Commit to satisfying one another emotionally and physically (see I Corinthians 7:2-5)

XVIII. Conclusion

- . Problem in Illinois — 17,000 deer are struck and killed every year
 - 0. Typically killed in the late fall
 - 1. Concentrating on reproductive activities
 - 2. Deer are not the only ones who get broadsided because they are not watching
- A. Dear Abby was right, the only difference between humans and animals is morality
- B. Why live like animals when God wants you to live on the level of His child

Greek terms: ἐπιθυμῆσαι; long for, covet, lust after; korinthiasesthai—play the Corinthian

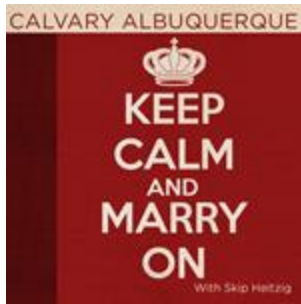
Publications referenced: *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook*; "Dear Abby;" *Fifty Shades of Grey*

Figures referenced: Solomon; Abigail Van Buren; C.S. Lewis; Baal; Ashtoreth; Dr. Merville Vincent; William Barclay; Martin Luther

Cross references: Genesis 1:27, see 2 Samuel 12:14, 13 and 16, Proverbs 5, Song_of_Solomon 4:12, Luke 17, 22, I Corinthians 6:9-10, I Corinthians 7:2-5, I Corinthians 10, 12:26, I Timothy 3

Topic: marriage

Keywords: marriage, lust, temptation, adultery, infidelity



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Faith Walkin' and Tongue Talkin'
SPEAKER:	Gino Geraci
SCRIPTURE:	James 3:1-12
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2368

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Who or what controls your speech? Like a mighty ship that is controlled by a small rudder, our tongues are a small member with great power. Our speech is being controlled either by the Lord or it is being controlled by our own anger, bitterness, and selfishness. When Jesus is in control, we do not have to fear what is going to leak out between our teeth. In our text this week, we learn to be wary that we don't offend with our tongue.

DETAILED NOTES

XIX. Introduction

- . The book of James is about submission to God, a controlled tongue and wisdom from above.
 - 0. Learn how to submit to God
 - 1. Allow His Holy Spirit to control your speech
 - 2. Say what you mean, but don't say it meanly
 - 3. In the South, "Bless their heart"
- A. Good communication is sending and receiving clear messages
 - 0. When we talk
 - 1. When we write
 - 2. When we don't talk, silence itself can be a message
- B. Mature faith
 - 0. The book of James is about maturity in the face of difficulty, trials, testing, and temptation
 - 1. Now he covers how we treat others and how we live
 - 2. Real saving faith results in a change
 - . Jesus changes our life, thinking, heart, and lips
 - a. Jesus insists on being Lord of our speech
 - 3. Our communication will reflect our maturity
 - 4. Book *"His Needs, Her Needs"* by Willard F. Harley
 - . Building an affair-proof marriage
 - a. Differences in needs for men and women
 - b. Shared understanding links all needs
 - 5. "The tongue is the ambassador of the heart" reflecting what the Bible says in Matthew 12:34 "For out of abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."
 - . Grandmother went to be with the Lord this past August

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- iv. Anger
 - v. Cover-ups
- C. We all stumble v. 2
 - 0. Our speech, words are usually where we offend the most
 - . Sammy Tanagho – outreach to Muslims
 - a. Are you willing to limit your offense to the gospel?
 - 1. Wives and husbands ask, "Why won't you talk to me?"
 - . "If you can't say something nice..."
 - a. Sometimes our silence becomes conversation
 - b. Marriage seminar – Pillsbury
 - c. Husbands and wives don't understand each other
- D. James uses the metaphor of a bridle
 - 0. If a person can't control their mouth, they can't control their body
 - 1. James links words with deeds
 - 2. Warren Wiersbe, story of a gossip
 - 3. Men generally desire clear, honest, and gossip-free communication
 - 4. Words are powerful, connected to our heart
 - 5. "Let the words of my mouth" (Psalm 19:14)
 - 6. Large horse controlled by a small bit in their mouth
- XXI. Jesus can control our speech
 - . The pilot directs and controls the ship v. 4
 - 0. Who or what controls your speech?
 - 1. Your speech is being controlled by
 - . Promises, praise, the Lord
 - a. Or, unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, and selfishness
 - b. When Jesus is in control of the heart, then Jesus is in control of the tongue
 - 2. Thomas Watson said, "God has given us two ears but one tongue to show that we should be swift to hear but slow to speak. God has set a double fence before the tongue, the teeth and the lips, to teach us to be wary that we don't offend with our tongue."
 - A. Something or someone is controlling your heart which in turn is controlling your speech
 - B. Judges and presidents can speak a few words and provide judgment, condemnation, or pardon
- XXII. A tiny spark v.6
 - . The power of a small thing
 - A. The tongue sets the tone and direction for our marriage and the environment of our church
 - B. The tongue is powerful and perverse
 - C. The tongue defiles the whole body
 - D. How do you put out the fire?
 - 0. "Fire goes out for lack of fuel" (Proverbs 26:20)
 - 1. "Quarrelsome person starts fights as easily as hot embers light charcoal" (Proverbs 26:21)
 - 2. Starve the fuel supply
 - . Remove the wood that is burning

- a. Remove the oxygen
- 3. What is supplying the perversity and poison in your speech?
 - . With your husband
 - a. With your wife
 - b. With your children
 - c. With the people in your church
- E. What happens when we say things that are mean, harmful, or destructive?
Words destroy trust, alienate affection, churches are destroyed, they promote an atmosphere of terror and trial and marriages are put at risk
- F. Replace poison with the antidote
 - 0. Stop lying, start telling the truth
 - 1. When that word or deed presents itself in our heart, we need to have an alternative
 - 2. Promote the kind of communication the promotes trust, respect and affection
 - . Develop an interest in the things that interests our spouse
 - a. Use conversation to inform, investigate, and understand
 - b. Give each other your undivided attention
 - 3. "I will watch what I do...my thoughts grew hot within me...igniting a fire of words." (Psalm 39:1, 3)
 - . Drunk groped mother, decided to kill him
 - a. We have to put on the mind of Christ and the character of Christ and the fruit of the Spirit
 - 4. v. 6 "sets on fire the course of nature"
 - . Burn victim
 - a. Course: oval track or wheel
 - . When singe one part of your life, you are going to singe all the rest of your life
 - i. Hitler autobiography, 125 people lost their lives for every word he wrote
 - ii. Words can start wars, burn cities, break hearts, ruin reputations, cause marriages to suffer, and sometimes die, destroy souls and sentence people to hell
 - iii. We sometimes underestimate the power of speech
- G. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." (Colossians 4:6)
 - 0. Be clear in your speech, take time for one another
 - 1. Speak for yourself and let your spouse speak for herself or himself
 - 2. Help me understand
 - 3. Study: men 10,000 words/day, women 20,000 words/day
 - 4. No one can tame the tongue...dangerous animal v.7
 - . Safari, grizzly bear
 - a. There is a reason for the warning
 - 5. Hopeless contradiction
 - . Try to do two different things with our tongue
 - a. We praise God and poison men
 - 6. Caring couples communicate in a caring way

XXIII. Closing

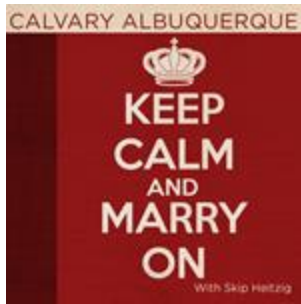
- . Silent treatment
- A. We sometimes think we can tame the tongue by writing it down on a piece of paper
- B. Bad news: No man or woman can control the tongue
- C. Good news: Jesus Christ can change your heart and change your speech
- D. Matthew Henry, "no man can tame the tongue without supernatural grace and assistance"
- E. Requires watchfulness
- F. Maturity in faith and speech
- G. Trust, respect, and affection

Greek terms: διδάσκαλος; didaskalos – a teacher, master

Publications referenced: *"His Needs Her Needs"* by Willard F. Harley

Figures referenced: Oswald Chambers, Gino's Nona, Sammy Tanagho, Warren Wiersbe, Thomas Watson, Bill Clinton, Matthew Henry

Cross references: Psalm 19:14, Psalm 39:1, 3, Proverbs 18:21, Proverbs 26:20-21, Matthew 5:37, Matthew 12:34, Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 4:6



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Short Fuse for the Long Haul!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Ephesians 4:25-32
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2405

MESSAGE SUMMARY

How can couples have a good fight? Let's face it, there are good fights and there are bad ones. And anger only complicates things. Since marriage is a "long haul" commitment and some people have a "short fuse," there are four principles you need to know in order to fight fair. Moreover, disagreements can actually strengthen your relationship. How?

DETAILED NOTES

XXIV. Introduction

- . Couples fight
 - 0. Overheard kitchen conversations with neighbors
 - 1. Escape to the beach, but then an argument between a young couple
 - 2. Ruth Graham interviewed
 - 3. Every marriage has sparks
 - . We are all human—we're all fallen/sinful
 - a. We are different—temperaments
 - 4. William Shakespeare "the course of true love never did run smooth"
 - A. Unresolved conflict is the problem
 - 0. Will become like a cancer
 - 1. There will be conflict
 - B. Lenya and Skip on vacation in Hawaii
 - 0. Kayak
 - 1. Two separate currents make for a rough ride
 - C. How can couples have a good fight?
 - D. Ability or inability to manage conflict, Diane Sollee of Coalition for Marriage and Family

XXV. Rules of engagement—four principles

- . Be honest without lying v. 25
 - 0. Four hot-button issues that cause conflict
 - . Money
 - a. Sex
 - b. Children
 - c. Communication
 - 1. Honesty in communication is essential
 - 2. Sometimes it's absent in a marriage
 - 3. Most fights happen after marriage not before

- . Voluntary versus compulsory
 - . The game has changed
 - i. The permanence of it all can bring out the beast in a person
- a. Before marriage you put your best foot forward
 - . May act like different to please other person
 - i. Country music
 - ii. Camping
- 4. Exaggeration
 - . Put away "always" and "never"
 - a. I've told you not to do that a "million" times
 - b. Those words are untrue
 - c. It lowers your credibility
 - d. Causes lack of trust
 - e. Increases defensiveness
- 5. Christian marriages
 - . Man takes on a daughter of God
 - a. Adds a new level of responsibility
 - b. "You are a son of the Living God"
- A. Be angry without sinning
 - 0. A commandment
 - 1. Gun dealer
 - 2. Unresolved anger
 - . Irritates
 - a. Poisons
 - b. An angry man stirs up strife (see Proverbs 29:22)
 - c. Noise of the soul
 - d. Couples don't want to deal with it
 - . Dance around issue
 - i. Talk about problems
 - ii. Stem from unresolved anger
 - 3. A permissive imperative
 - . God gives permission for anger in certain cases
 - a. Just don't let it lead to sin
 - . Sin always leads to death
 - i. Sin of anger always results in the death of something
 - . Burst of temper is sinful
 - a. Out of control rage is sinful
 - b. Anger that aims to hurt another is sinful
 - ii. Who can bear a broken spirit (see Proverbs 18:14)
 - . Skip and Lenya married quickly/newlyweds
 - a. Couple of occasions with escalating words—both of our spirits crushed; agreed that we would/could never do that again
 - b. We made two rules: cool down period, go to a public place to resolve
- B. Be reconciled without waiting vv. 26-27

0. Gary Smalley said, "When we bury anger inside of us, it always keeps growing"
1. If anger grows without being resolved, it gives Satan a foothold v.27
 - . Greek word τόπος, topos—the office of authority in a government place
 - a. When you erect an altar of anger
 - b. Devil is the priest
2. Proper and improper time to disagree
 - . Not a good time
 - . Fatigued
 - i. Highly stressed
 - a. A good time
 - . Gently set a time
 - i. "Can we talk when the kids are down?"
 - ii. If you make the appointment, keep the appointment
3. There's a proper place
 - . Not in public
 0. Don't embarrass your spouse in front of others
 - I. Don't bring the dirty details to your family
 - a. Don't use subtle cutting sarcasm "suuuure"
 - b. Battle flags
 - . He gets really, really quiet
 - i. She gets on the phone and talk, talk, talks
 - ii. Little things irritate
 - iii. He doesn't eat
 - iv. She bites her nails
 - v. She buys a gun
- C. Be open without hurting vv. 29-32
 0. Choice of words (see James 3:2)
 1. Research on anesthesia drugs—what words sound like when a patient is going under
 2. Careless words combined with body language
 3. The power of the tongue can bring life to a marriage or can kill it (see Proverbs 18:21)
 4. When you attack the person and not the problem, you are using hurtful, not helpful words
 - . Words that reject rather than reprove
 - a. "I wish I never would have married you"
 - b. "I wish I never would have met you"
 - c. "You're just like your mother"
 - d. "You look horrible in that dress"
 - e. A word can pierce you or promote health (see Proverbs 12:18)
 - . Volume
 - i. Ugly words
 - ii. Try lowering your voice (see Proverbs 15:1)

XXVI. Closing

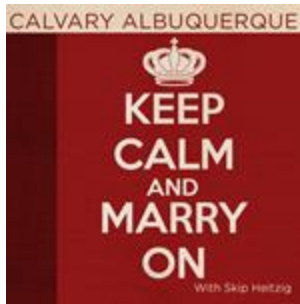
- . Be committed to resolving conflict

- 0. I...Am...Wrong
- 1. You...Are...Right
- A. "To keep your marriage brimming with love in the loving cup, whenever you're wrong, admit it, and when you're right, shut up." - Anonymous

Greek terms: τόπος; topos, a place, region, seat, an opportunity

Figures referenced: Ruth Graham, William Shakespeare, Dr. Gary Smalley

Cross references: Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 18:14, Proverbs 21, Proverbs 29:22, James 3:2



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Partners for Life
SPEAKER:	Bob Shank
SCRIPTURE:	Psalms 1:1-6; Malachi 3:6-10
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2407

MESSAGE SUMMARY

When couples marry, they form a partnership where they each agree to cooperate for their mutual interests—it's a partnership between a husband and a wife. But, there is a third party in that partnership—God. Each person's personal relationship with Jesus should be as active and as powerful as their relationship with each other. In this study, we see how we can improve our partnership with God and ensure His blessing on our lives, and we receive concise teaching on what God means when He tells us to test Him regarding our finances.

DETAILED NOTES

XXVII. Introduction

- . Partnerships
 0. Between a husband and wife
 1. With God
 2. Rate your partnership
 3. How to move it from where it is to where we want it to be
- A. Economy—Recession
 0. Five years ago driving in the fast lane
 1. Effected by culture and economy but not participate—choosing to participate in God's economy instead
 2. What are you doing to fix your economy, where God is faithful and powerful in your life
 3. "One Nation Under God"

XXVIII. God's Economy

- . Under His blessing or curse—it's like oxygen
 0. Rockies versus sea level
 1. The blessing of God is "spiritual oxygen"
 - . Taken for granted
 - a. When you live without God's blessing for so long, you begin to think it's normal
- A. Two things: The bias of the blessed, the course of the cursed
 0. Psalm 1—how do blessed people live
 - . The first song
 - a. God wants everyone to be blessed
 - b. Highlight "whatever he does prospers"
 - . Test for the blessed

- i. Not saying: prosperity gospel
 - ii. Culture's definition of prosperity
 - iii. God says prosperity is measured in your generosity
 - c. Stop living the wrong way, understand and live the right way—righteous and unrighteous people
 - . Right and wrong
 - i. The more we live in the right way, the more righteous we will be, the more God will bless us
 - ii. Satan does not want you to be blessed
 - . The world will see and want what you have
 - a. Satan wants us distracted
 - d. The people of God got further and further from God—more desperate; by the New Testament [under the curse] they just thought that's just the way things were
- I. "You were unfaithful" Malachi 3:6
- . God says, "You were unfaithful"
 - a. Expectations
 - b. Robbed God
 - . Do both tithes and offerings
 - i. Under a curse
 - ii. Not condemned, there is a solution
 - iii. "Test me in this"
 - c. Progressive
 - . All born under the curse – hopelessness
 - i. Surrender – solution that God offered through Jesus
 - ii. Confidence – God is hanging onto you, He will continue it (see Philippians 1:6); but He came for more than that (see John 10:10)
 - iii. Faithfulness – obedient to God's plan
 - . Without faithfulness, there is no blessing
 - a. Without the blessing, you are living under the curse
 - iv. Generous—He did not give us resources to hoard
 - . Distribute
 - a. Serve (see Matthew 10:28)
 - b. We are here as representatives of Jesus Christ
 - v. Prosperous—when God puts it in my hand, He has a purpose
 - d. What did it cost these Jewish people to keep the tithe?
 - . They were running on empty
 - i. Their grain and fruit were dropping
 - ii. Pests swept through
 - iii. They experienced resignation
 - iv. For generations, they had lived under the curse
 - e. What would it look like if these people were to experience the blessings of God? V. 10
 - . Open the floodgates of heaven

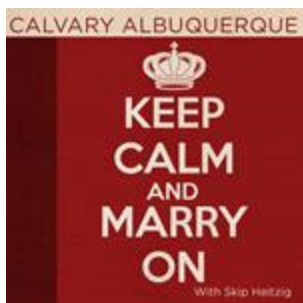
- i. Only other occurrence of that term was back in Genesis 6 when speaking of the flood of Noah
 - ii. It will deliver an overload that you can't contain
 - iii. Folks around them would envy them their prosperity
 - 2. The Lord does not change V. 6
 - . The Law—what's replaced it?—grace
 - a. Sermon on the Mount, don't murder versus don't even hate
 - b. Grace raises the bar not lowers it
 - 3. Test the Lord V. 10
 - . Statistics: How many Americans tithe?
 - a. Withhold what we know He expects (see James 4:17)
 - b. Put principles into practice
 - . Question: Would you be willing to put God to the test in the fourth quarter of 2012?
 - i. "God, I'm going to commit 10% of the gross that You bring into my life between now and the end of the year. God, I'm going to see what happens when I do it Your way."
- XXIX. Conclusion – Salvation versus Blessing
 - . Salvation is by grace
 - 0. Not earned
 - I. Given without expectation
 - A. Blessing is through obedience
 - 0. Earned
 - I. If you are not faithful to God, you are separated from God
 - 2. Return to the Lord and He will return to you (see Zechariah 1:3)
 - B. Can God be trusted?
 - 0. Martin Luther – three conversions
 - . Convert mind, believe the right thing
 - a. Convert heart, give up something
 - b. Convert the purse, sometimes the most difficult
 - I. Take God at His Word—see what He does
 - . Make the vow
 - a. Be honest (see Ecclesiastes 5:5)

Figures referenced: Martin Luther

Cross references: Genesis 6, Psalm 1, Zechariah 1:3, Malachi 3:6-12, Matthew 10:28, John 10:10, Philippians 1:6

Topic: Money

Keywords: tithing, blessing, curse, partnership, money, finance, marriage, vow



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Have a New You by Friday
SPEAKER:	Dr. Kevin Leman
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2410

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Guest speaker Dr. Kevin Leman provides insights for making changes in our marriages and our families. How do we change our behavior? By deciding to act differently! Let's give 100% of ourselves to God—He is worth nothing less.

DETAILED NOTES

XXX. Introduction

- . Got serious April of junior year
- A. In the zero percentile
- B. Turned down by tons of colleges
- C. Finally got accepted to church school
 - 0. Survived a year
 - 1. Got kicked out
- D. Tucson working as a Janitor
- E. Met wife in men's room
- F. Dated 3 months
- G. She pops the question: Would you like to go to church with me?

XXXI. I walked out clean

- . Everything that happened that night was supernatural
- A. How long does it take to change behavior?
- B. Birth order
 - 0. Sister a first born—she's perfect
 - 1. Wife a first born
- C. Family
 - 0. You believe some lies about yourself
 - 1. Birth order
 - 2. When you get married, how many marry?
 - . Six
 - a. Blended family—eight
 - b. There's a rule book under the bouquet
 - c. Women lie like dogs
 - d. Women are weird
 - e. They use three times as many words as men
 - 3. At a "five-fork" restaurant having dinner, no dessert
 - . Would you like to stop for ice cream?

- a. Now she's crying
 - b. It was not a question
 - c. "We need to talk" —no words are needed by you, sir
 - 4. First born daughter, first born son—baby of the family
 - . Kicked out of cub scouts
 - a. Kicked out of fourth grade
 - b. Kicked out of college
- D. What happened? "Would you like to go to church?"
 - 0. Eleanor Wilson
 - . God had a purpose
 - a. Wrote 41 books
 - 1. Grew up with critical-eyed parent
 - . Time for bed
 - a. Piles, start projects, won't finish
- E. Relationship with Maker
 - 0. He loves us
 - 1. "Jesus aint the big bad wolf"
 - 2. Satan's fertile ground
 - 3. God wants all of you
- F. Husband's simple
 - 0. A four-year-old that shaves
 - 1. Wants to be needed and wanted by you
 - 2. He'll do anything for you
 - 3. January 8, 2011
 - 4. When you husband says something stupid, just say, "Wow"
- G. And the two shall become one (see Genesis 2:24)
- H. Bird dog in full point
 - 0. Women when shopping
 - 1. Women when girlfriend gets a new hair do
 - 2. Women want to be treated gentle
 - 3. Prized (see 1 Peter 3:7)
- I. Love Language – Gary Chapman
 - 0. Yours
 - 1. Your wife's
 - 2. Whatever they complain about, that's their love language
 - 3. Back rub, foot rub, scratch
- J. Submit? Love?
 - 0. Husbands love your wives (see Ephesians 5:25)
 - 1. Submit to one another (see Ephesians 5:21)
 - 2. How do we change behavior?
 - . Football, change play
 - a. Decide to act different
 - b. What does the old self do?
 - c. What will the new self do?
- K. Divorce
 - 0. Marriages last an average of seven years
 - 1. Have a love affair with your spouse or someone else will

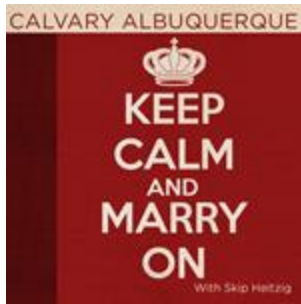
- 2. How many people are counting on you staying married?
 - 3. Try this at home
 - . Go to the kitchen and make out
 - a. Kids will be right up between you
- L. Your single and your dating
 - 0. Does he love God?
 - 1. Does he have a great relationship with his mother?
 - 2. Does he have a temper?
- M. Anniversary
 - 0. Card
 - 1. Almond Joy
 - 2. Active sex life
 - 3. Honor each other
- N. Your kid is not a gerbil
- XXXII. What does God Want?
 - . He wants all of you
 - A. It starts now
 - B. Can you be a better Christian?
 - 0. No!
 - 1. Love the Lord with all your heart (see Matthew 22:37)
 - 2. Luke warm (see Revelation 3:16)
 - 3. Bumper stickers
 - 4. Pictures on fridge – God looks at you and me—loves us
 - C. Disciples dumb as mud
 - 0. Going away, you know where (see John 14:1-11)
 - 1. See me, you've seen the Father
 - 2. Who did Jesus speak to after resurrection?
 - . Disciples in hiding
 - a. Jesus just appears
 - D. At the wedding, out of vino (see John 2:11)
- XXXIII. Conclusion
 - . Do you feel like you fall short?
 - 0. He's a jealous God
 - 1. We want to drive
 - 2. Be perfect (teleios) like Him (see Matthew 5:48)

Greek terms: τέλειος; teleios, perfect, (a) complete in all its parts, (b) full grown, of full age, (c) specially of the completeness of Christian character

Publications referenced: Love Language

Figures referenced: Eleanor Wilson, Gary Chapman

Cross references: Genesis 2:24, Matthew 5:48, Matthew 22:37, John 2:11, John 14:1-11, 1 Peter 3:7



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	In Sickness and in Health
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Job 1-2
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2412

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Couples who marry begin their relationship with a verbal contract of wedding vows. They are happy and eager to repeat the familiar "for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health," but most fail to read the fine print of those negative possibilities. Today we will consider what happens in a marriage when health issues become the issue.

DETAILED NOTES

XXXIV. Introduction

- . Three years ago Lenya and I took a journey
 0. Tickets on a train that you don't want to get on
 1. Doctor: "hmmm, I'd like to run more tests, today"
 2. Mass in abdomen
 3. Surgery
 4. Malignant
 5. Many months of chemo
 6. Always another check-up
 7. Sickness isn't what most of us think of when we get married
- A. Blog of young couple
 0. 22 months until the big day
 1. Then, Matt, diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer
 2. "God gave us peace"
 3. "This wasn't in our plans"
- B. Life is a series of getting used to things you never planned
- C. Every couple says those vows, "...in sickness and in health..."
- D. Not, as long as we're handsome, pretty, and rich
- E. Marriage vows are not just a present declaration, they are a future commitment
- F. Say, "I will," not "I do"
- G. See your marriage like the 20th floor of a building with no exits – fight the fire together

XXXV. Mr. and Mrs. Job

- . Sickness is universal
 0. Some believe the book of Job is the oldest in the Bible
 - . All people have suffered, even good people, even God's good people
 - a. Job is the oldest dude ever

1. Job was the greatest, the largest, the heaviest (v. 3)
 - . Not in body type
 - a. Weighty reputation
 - b. Loved God, hated evil
 - c. Compared to Daniel and Noah in (see Ezekiel 14)
 - d. The example of perseverance (see James 5)
 2. No one deserved suffering less than Job
 - . It bothers us
 - a. Why would a God of love allow that
 - b. If God loves me, how could He allow that?
 - c. Mary and Martha
 - . Lazarus sick (see John 11)
 - i. Sent Jesus a note: "The one whom you love is sick" John 11:3
 3. Sickness shouldn't surprise us
 - . The man that Jesus loved was still a man
 - a. It happens to everyone
 - b. Dr. Walter Martin said, "Skip, we all die of our last disease"
 - c. "Man is born to trouble..." Job 5:7 You can count on it
 - d. Charles H. Spurgeon said, "The love of Christ does not separate us from the common necessities and infirmities of human life. Men of God are still men. The covenant of grace is not a charter of exemption from disease."
 4. Three tragedies struck the life of Job
 - . Terrorism
 - . The Sabeans (v. 15)
 - i. The Chaldeans (v. 17)
 - a. Natural disaster
 - . Fire of God (lightening) (v. 16)
 - i. Great wind (v. 19)
 - b. Disease, Job 2:7
 - . Leprosy? Elephantiasis?
 - i. Don't care what you call it, it hurt
 5. One day happy then this
- A. Sickness feels personal
0. It's very isolating
 1. Problem with typical reading of the book of Job
 - . We forget there was a Mrs. Job
 - a. Both of them lost property, income, all their children
 2. Mrs. Job becomes the caregiver
 - . When sickness strikes it effects everyone in the family
 - a. Each feels like they are experiencing it and no one else understands what they are dealing with
 - b. Suffering is so all absorbing that you are the only one you think about when it happens
 3. The key is to move from the personal to the practical
 - . Communicate feelings to everyone else in the family

- a. Communicate expectations
 - b. Put together a plan
 - c. A good counselor can help move the family along
- 4. Job had bad counselors (see Job 16:2)
 - . At first they were great—they didn't say anything – that is helpful
 - a. The ministry of presence – just listen
 - b. Then they began to talk and they made him feel more and more isolated
 - c. One sufferer's words
 - d. Walk softly around a broken heart
- B. Sickness can be detrimental
 - 0. When one spouse gets sick, things get complicated (see Job 2:9)
 - 1. The tension could be cut with a knife
 - 2. Mrs. Job has suffered more than anyone else in Scripture at the hands of preachers and expositors
 - . Augustan labeled her the devil's advocate
 - a. John Chrysostom labeled her the devil's best scourge
 - b. John Calvin called her the embodiment of Satan
 - 3. She deserves fairer treatment
 - . She just lost 10 children in one day
 - a. Her husband has a disease
 - b. Though it's not right, this is an emotional reaction – an outburst that happens when tragedy piles up
 - c. We are hard-wired to be emotional first and rational second
 - 4. Blaspheming God is bad advice
 - 5. He feels guilty that he's sick
 - 6. She, the caregiver, feels fearful of the future
 - 7. Stats – 75% of marriages with chronically ill spouses end in divorce
 - 8. *New York Times* article, oncologist, Dr. Marc Chamberlain, men are more likely to leave the marriage than women
 - 9. Practical advice to caregivers
 - . Stay healthy
 - . Eat right
 - i. Exercise
 - ii. Get away and rejuvenate
 - a. Stay social
 - . Have someone sit with your spouse
 - i. Get out to Bible study
 - ii. Church
 - iii. Interact with other people
 - b. Stay focused on the marriage relationship
 - . Read to them
 - i. Walk with them if they can
 - ii. Watch a movie
 - iii. Call a friend on the phone together
 - iv. Nurturing and building up
- C. Sickness should be helpful

- 0. I believe God is sovereign
- 1. He would never allow ongoing sickness unless He has a deeper purpose (see Job 42:2)
 - . Humility – Paul said, "lest I be exalted above measure..." 2 Corinthians 12:7
 - a. Purity – goldsmith puts gold in the fire (see 1 Peter 1:6-7)
 - b. Dependency – prayer life gets really good when you suffer (see 2 Corinthians 12:8-10)
 - c. Maturity – patience produces maturity (see James 1:3-4)
 - d. He will use adversity and sickness to get you to maturity
 - e. If every irritation and sickness were removed, you would be the most shallow individual on the face of the earth

XXXVI. Closing

- . 20-year-old writes to his fiancée
- A. I am resolved!
- B. Christian love
- C. Classy way to say, "I love you!"
- D. I don't know what the future will hold...but, in sickness and health...I will

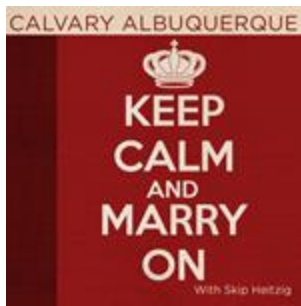
Publications referenced: New York Times

Figures referenced: Dr. Walter Martin, Charles H. Spurgeon, Augustan, John Chrysostom, John Calvin, Dr. Marc Chamberlain

Cross references: Job 5:7, 16:2, 42:2, Ezekiel 14, John 11, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, James 1:3-4, James 5, 1 Peter 1:6-7

Topic: marriage

Keywords: health, sickness, patience, trust, God



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	The Most Important Job in the World
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Ephesians 6:4
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2414

MESSAGE SUMMARY

What job could possibly be more important to the world than a parent? A surgeon, lawyer, president, pastor, or economist? Nope! Think of a parent's influence: Every word and deed of a parent becomes a fiber woven into the character of a child that ultimately determines how that child fits into the fabric of society. But children can both unify a marriage relationship and challenge it. Let's pull some principles out of Ephesians 6:4 to see how to "Keep Calm" while raising kids.

DETAILED NOTES

XXXVII. Introduction

- . World's most important job – parenting
 - 0. Skip's son Nate born
 - 1. So light
 - 2. Weight of responsibility
- A. Stats
 - 0. 16 % of a child's life spent at school
 - 1. 1% at Sunday School
 - 2. 83% at home under the tutelage of their parents
- B. "Children are a heritage from the Lord...happy is the man whose quiver is full of them." Psalm 127:3-5
 - 0. Not everyone would agree with a quiver-full
 - 1. Quiver at the thought
 - 2. Joke: Three men in hospital waiting room—twins, triplets, 7up
- C. Being a parent is the toughest job
 - 0. Just when you're getting the hang of it, you're unemployed
 - 1. They leave the house
 - 2. Kids have a mind, thus, they are unpredictable
- D. Different stages
 - 0. Grandparents
 - 1. Not yet have kids
 - 2. Mark Twain said that things go pretty smooth until they're about 13, then you should put them in a barrel with a knot-hole
- E. The point of being a parent
 - 0. Don't check out
 - 1. Let them check you out

- 2. It's easier to build than to repair
 - . How do you build
 - a. How do fashion
 - b. How do you give resource to move them into the future
- XXXVIII. Parenting can be done negatively – "Fathers do not provoke"
- . Why just fathers?
 - 0. You can't keep mom out to save your life
 - 1. Typically father's tend to neglect their children, especially during this period
 - . Socrates: "Why do you men...neglect your own children?"
 - a. It must have been quite a problem
 - 2. Fathers tend to be the ones perceived to be the most harsh
 - . Imposing
 - a. Intimidating
 - 3. Fathers bear the brunt of responsibility
 - A. Other translations, Amplified Bible
 - B. Over time resentment can build up in the heart of a child
 - 0. Hypocrisy
 - . What you say and do does not match
 - a. John Bunyan said, "Saint abroad but a devil at home"
 - 1. Inconsistency
 - . Discipline
 - a. Respond differently to the same kind of action
 - b. Sends confusing message
 - c. One parent harsh, the other passive
 - . Talk through
 - i. Decide together
 - ii. Two Harvard sociologists – firm, fair, consistent
 - 2. Discouragement
 - . Criticize more than compliment
 - a. "harsh words stir up anger" Proverbs 15:1
 - b. Child can't do anything right
 - 3. Favoritism
 - . Favorites – easy in my case, I had one son
 - a. I had 3 older brothers
 - b. Builds up resentment
 - c. Scriptural examples
 - . Jacob and Esau
 - i. Joseph and all the other brothers
 - 4. Over-commitment of parents
 - . Activities take precedence over kids
 - a. Won't understand if they're neglected
 - b. Charles Francis Adams, politician
 - . Grandpa and dad both president of U.S.
 - i. Very overcommitted
 - ii. Went fishing with son
 - . Most wonderful day

- a. A day wasted
- 5. Domineering parents
 - . Controlling
 - a. Smothering
 - b. Over-protecting
 - c. You don't trust them
- 6. Minimizing
 - . Feelings
 - a. Words
 - b. Doll breaks, toy missing
 - c. Report on child welfare – primary reason kids go to foster care: disinterested parents
- 7. Over-loading kids life
 - . Expectations too high
 - a. Feel like they will never please you
 - b. Napoleon Bonaparte was number 42 in his class
 - c. Isaac Newton next to the lowest in his class
 - d. Six-year-old kid – too stupid to learn, Thomas Edison
- XXXIX. Parenting can be done positively
 - . Bring them up – train them
 - 0. Nourish your children, move them toward maturity
 - 0. Mother would be in charge of training until they were weaned
 - 1. If a boy, the father would take over with the supervision in the training of the law
 - 2. If a girl, the mother would train in the domestic
 - 1. God commanded it Deuteronomy 6:6-7
 - . It should be natural
 - a. "Say, Play, and Pray"
 - . Read story out of Bible
 - i. Act out the story
 - ii. Pray about the lesson
- A. Admonition of the Lord
 - 0. Greek word *nouthesia*
 - . Place something before one's mind
 - a. Correcting, rebuking, warning
 - b. A firmer idea
 - c. Proverbs 29:15 says, "a child left to himself brings shame"
 - 1. Corrective discipline – spanking
 - . Expresses love (see Hebrews 12:6)
 - a. It's fruitful (see proverbs 23:13-14 NLT)
 - b. Anti-spanking experts
 - c. Timely (see Proverbs 19:18)
 - d. Requires tools
 - . Rod – Something separate from the human body (no hand, foot, head but)
 - i. Hands reserved for embrace
 - 2. Preventative discipline

- . Play
 - a. Pray
 - b. Time spent with them
 - c. Reinforces corrective discipline
 - d. Josh McDowell says, "Rules without relationship will produce rebellion"
 - e. Gallup survey – 1000 teenagers in a 24-hour period
 - . 42% no words of praise
 - i. 50% no hugs or kisses
 - ii. 44% never heard "I love you" one time
- XL. Parenting Should be Done Ultimately – Goal: "of the Lord"
- . See them become mature spiritually
 - 0. Lead them to Christ
 - 1. Disciple them in Christ
 - 2. Teach them to love Christ
 - A. Biblical definition of a parent "partner with God"
 - B. Begin young
 - 0. Charles H. Spurgeon said, "Before a child reaches seven teach him all the way to heaven, and better still the work will thrive if he learns before he's five"
 - 1. Dr. Martin De Haan – statistics, persons over 35 years old, only 1 in 50,000 will receive Christ, after 45 years old only 1 in 300,000
 - C. Most common verse: Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child..."
 - 0. Parental role: train
 - 1. Hebrew word *chanak*
 - . Midwife
 - a. Date honey
 - b. Massage roof of mouth
 - c. Stimulate sucking reflex
 - d. Stimulate the taste
 - e. Stimulate that taste for God in a child by what you say and what you do
 - f. Abraham Lincoln "...he must walk that way himself"
- XLI. Closing
- . 100 years from now the world might be a better place because you invested in the life a child or a quiver of them
 - A. Don't provoke them to wrath
 - B. Ultimate goal: in the Lord

Greek terms: νουθεσία, ας, ῆ; nouthesia, a warning, admonition, counsel

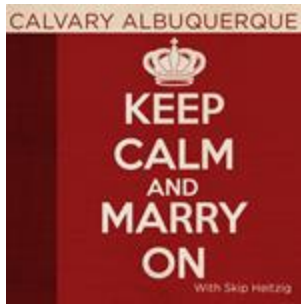
Hebrew terms: חָנַךְ; chanak, to train up, dedicate

Figures referenced: Mark Twain, Socrates, John Bunyan, Napoleon Bonaparte, Isaac Newton, Thomas Edison, Josh McDowell, Charles H. Spurgeon, Dr. Martin De Haan, Abraham Lincoln

Cross references: Psalm 127:3-5, Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 23:13-14 (NLT), Proverbs 29:15, Hebrews 12:6

Topic: parenting

Keywords: parent, children, kids, father, mother, love, discipline, chasten, dad, mom, train



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	In-laws or Outlaws?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 28-31
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2416

MESSAGE SUMMARY

When two people get married, they don't simply marry each other; they marry into an extended family consisting of mother-in-law, father-in-law, and perhaps even sister-in-law and brother-in-law. These in-laws come in all sizes and shapes, and all personalities, and there is the potential for these *in-laws* to become *outlaws* to the married couple. Today we explore that relationship and see pitfalls to avoid as well as practices to apply.

DETAILED NOTES

XLII. Introduction

- . Adam and Eve the happiest of all couples, no in-laws
- A. Man went to doctor for physical checkup, six months to live, live with mother-in-law
- B. Young husband who hated his mother-in-law, found a genie in a bottle, 3 wishes
- C. Serious issue of in-laws can be either a blessing or a curse
 0. Sister-in-law drives me crazy
 1. Father-in-law disconnected
 2. Mother-in-law wants to tell me how to cook
 3. Son-in-law kidnapped our daughter
 4. Article in *LA Times*, comedian being sued by mother-in-law for all the mother-in-law jokes she was telling
 5. Jay Adams, *Solving Marriage Problems*; The most difficult of all relationships...the in-laws
 6. In-laws can become outlaws, the difference between the two: outlaws are wanted

XLIII. Four Roles: parents, God, in-laws, children

- . Parent's role, to release their children
 0. Isaac releases Jacob from the security of the home
 1. Greatest gift: the gift of freedom (see Genesis 22:4)
 - . Leave father and mother
 - a. Joined to each other
 - b. One day they would have children
 2. Quick advice
 - . Parents: I am preparing them and me for the release
 - . (Catch and release: fishing) They are lent to us by God, they belong to God (see Psalm 127:3)

- i. Not deserting
 - ii. Not disrespectful
 - iii. A shift of allegiance
 - a. Young couples
 - . Leaving is not just moving out of the house
 - i. Parents can be dead and you can still hang on to them
 - ii. 65-year-old man, my wife has never ever left his father or mother
 - iii. Make your mate the most significant person in your life
 - iv. Commend your mate in front of your parents
 - v. Never use negative language
 - vi. Try to include your spouse in your family conversations, never leave them out
 - vii. Make it clear to the parents
- A. God's Role is to direct His children's steps
 - 0. Jacob's wondering what's gonna happen now
 - 1. You are releasing your kids to the care of providential God
 - 2. Priorities
 - . Be the right spouse
 - a. Have a solid relationship with God
 - b. God is first priority and everything comes after that
 - c. God gives Jacob priorities: get married, have kids
 - d. Marriage ceremony, triangle, the closer you grow to God, the closer you grow to each other
 - e. Good example in the book of Ephesians
 - . Chapters 1-3: your relationship with God
 - i. Chapters 4-6: your relationship with people
 - . Chapter 4: how to get along with anyone
 - a. Chapter 5: husband/wife
 - b. Chapter 6: parents and then employer/employee
 - c. Repeats pattern in Colossians and in I Timothy
 - f. God-given pattern of priorities
 - g. Number one: God; number two: spouse; number three, your children; number four everything else
 - 3. Keep this pattern to keep everything from getting out of whack
 - 4. Be passionately in love with God, be passionately in love with your spouse
 - . That's the best gift you can give to your children
 - a. That's the best message you can send to your in-laws
- B. The in-law's role: be supportive of their children's choices, including their mate
 - 0. Laban had no regard for his daughter or his future son-in-laws
 - 1. 20 years go by, Jacob has his own family and business—they get into an argument
 - . Laban says everything is his
 - a. He is all about him
 - 2. Wealthy business man wants to make son-in-law a 50/50 partner, son-in-law lazy

3. Jacob was a hard worker
4. Laban used his son-in-law to get rich, and Laban himself was lazy
5. Girl fell in love and father could not stand the guy, happened three times, she finds someone just like her father, her mother can't stand him
6. The husband/wife relationship should always take precedence over the child relationship
7. They are one flesh – the package deal
8. Don't give advice unless they ask you for it
- C. The role of children is to honor their parent's significance (both sets of parents)
 0. Rumor that Jacob was getting rich off Laban – not true
 - . Jacob spoke against his father-in-law in front of his wives and brothers-in-law
 - a. Be respectful
 - b. Be very careful what you say about your in-laws to and in front of your spouse
 - c. Son-in-law bought mother-in-law a cemetery plot for Christmas...
 - I. Good example of in-law relationship, Luke 4
 - . Luke's mother-in-law lived with him
 - a. Luke asked Jesus to heal her
 - b. That's honor and respect
- D. Bring it down a notch
 0. Don't be so tense around your in-laws
 - I. Add some humor, if possible

XLIV. Closing

- . Ann Landers—man writes in about his sister-in-law
- A. Try to add a little humor
- B. Prayer every week that marriages in this fellowship grow deep and strong
- C. Hope that what we've learned so far helps all of us in our relationships

Publications referenced: *LA Times*, *Solving Marriage Problems*, *Dear Abby*

Figures referenced: Jay Adams, Ann Landers

Cross references: Genesis 22:4, Psalm 127:3, Luke 4:38-39, Ephesians, Colossians, I Timothy

Topic: Marriage

Keywords: In-laws, God, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, parent, child



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	The Unequal Yoke
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Corinthians 6:1-18; 1 Peter 3:1-22
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2417

MESSAGE SUMMARY

There is a hybrid relationship we haven't talked out yet—the *unequally yoked marriage*: when one spouse is a believer while the other is an unbeliever. Such a relationship can occur for a whole number of reasons and can provide a whole host of challenges. But it can also be managed, and done so well: with grace and great success. Let's consider this relationship today.

DETAILED NOTES

XLV. Introduction

- . Unique marriages
 - 0. Not ideal
 - 1. They make it work
- A. Classified Ad in NJ paper (Gretchen)
- B. We are all different
 - 0. Opposites attract
 - 1. Differences are great
 - 2. When they undermine the stability of the relationship
 - . Unequal yoke – marriage relationship
 - a. Believer married to an unbeliever
 - b. "I have no way of knowing whether or not you married the wrong person, but I do know that many people have a lot of wrong ideas about marriage and what it takes to make that marriage happy and successful. I'll be the first to admit that it's possible that you did marry the wrong person. However, if you treat the wrong person like the right person, you could well end up having married the right person after all."— Zig Ziglar
 - c. *Washington Post* research compiled on mixed marriages
 - . *In the 80s 15% of American couples had mixed faith marriages*
 - i. *Today that's about 25%*
 - ii. *With that comes with a difference in world view*
 - . *Strained relationship*
 - a. *Chance of divorce goes up*
 - iii. *Mixed faith: Catholic marrying an Evangelical, Baptist marrying a Mormon, Jewish person marrying a Christian, etc.*
- C. Two Scriptures, 2 Corinthians 6:1-18, 1 Peter 3:1-22
 - 0. Marrying an unequal partner

- I. Managing an unequal partnership
- XLVI. Marrying an unequal partner
 - . Term unequal yoke
 0. Farming term—two animals yoked together
 1. Same animals, same species, same temperament, same weight—no problem
 2. Term comes from Jewish Law (see Deuteronomy 22:10)
 - A. In Marriage
 0. One loves God, seeks God, wants to be in fellowship with other believers
 1. Unbeliever doesn't understand those yearnings of the believing spouse
 2. Example: We are separated because I'm saved...
 3. How does such a circumstance come to exist?
 - . Husband or wife gets saved, the other does not
 - . Two unbelievers get married
 - i. One decides to give their life to Christ
 - . This new relationship is threatening to the unbelieving spouse
 - a. Jesus comes between them
 - a. Two believers are married and then one falls away and the other remains faithful to the Lord
 - b. Deception: When they got married, she thought he was saved
 - . He pretended to be saved because he wanted to marry her
 - i. After marriage the mask came off
 - c. Disobedience : Dating and then marrying an unbeliever
 - . Missionary dating
 - i. "I see him as my great assignment from God"
 - ii. Eventually she marries her schoolwork
 - iii. Often he drags her down and she compromises
 - iv. Seeds of disobedience always yield a harvest of consequence
 - d. Earthquake off the coast of Japan
 - . Devastated the coast of Japan
 - i. Tectonic plates suddenly moved and caused devastation
 - ii. When a two people in a relationship are moving in different directions, there is going to be some sort of tremor that occurs
 - iii. Then blaming occurs
 - . Believer blames herself
 - a. Blames God
 - b. This is not helpful
 - c. No excuses everyone stands for their own choices that they make
 - e. Encouragement: as much as you want your spouse saved, God wants them saved even more than you do (see 2 Peter 3:9 and John 3:16)

- f. Spiritually vulnerable situation
- XLVII. Managing an unequal partnership
 - . The marriage may not be ideal, but you can have a loving relationship
 - 0. Treat the wrong person like the right person and you'll discover that they were the right person all along
 - 1. Don't idealize another's Christian marriage—it's not a reality
 - A. Don't divorce them (see 1 Corinthians 7:12-16)
 - 0. Stay in the relationship
 - 1. Spouse and children are sanctified by the believer
 - 2. "Wives, likewise, be submissive..." 1 Peter 3:1
 - . Saved women, unsaved husbands
 - a. Six times more Scripture dealing with wives, than with husbands (women had it harder)
 - B. Wise submission
 - 0. Not to sinful desires (see Act 5:29)
 - 1. Sounds counterintuitive—submissive to Christ or husband?
 - 2. Not a doormat
 - 3. Submit: Relinquish your own rights in order to meet someone else's needs
 - 4. Because you want to honor and please Christ
 - 5. Story: Woman married to a tyrant, she was miserable, he died, she remarried; she met her new husband's needs out of love not by threat
 - C. Silent preaching vs. 1
 - 0. Doesn't mean you *never* share
 - . You have to say something (see 1 Peter 1:23)
 - a. They've already heard it now live it
 - b. Don't nag, badger, or argue
 - c. Don't set alarm clock to loud preacher
 - d. Don't pin notes on his pillow
 - e. Don't stuff tracts in his lunch
 - 1. Be faithful to God and to your husband
 - D. Balanced beauty v. 3
 - 0. Everyone appreciates beauty
 - . Any house looks better painted—paint the house
 - a. Don't stop there, decorate the inside
 - 1. A beautiful inside (spirit) is even more important than the outside
 - 2. Outward is only temporary (see Proverbs 31:30)
 - E. Husbands be understanding vs. 7
 - 0. For both husbands and wives
 - 1. Mutual respect and honor
 - . Be considerate: sensitive to her physical, emotional and spiritual needs
 - a. Be caring: honor her, she's the special one in your life
 - b. Be chivalrous: weaker vessel
 - . Not weaker intellectually
 - i. Not weaker spiritually
 - ii. Simply about the physical constitution

- c. 10-year-old boys were asked how they would make a marriage work, "Tell her she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck"
 - F. "That your prayers may not be hindered" v. 7
 - 0. Naturally your prayers will be for spouse's conversion—petitions for salvation
 - I. Respect and honor them or they will resent your Christianity
- XLVIII. Closing
 - . If you treat the wrong person like the right person, you could well end up having the right person after all
 - A. Treat them like a gem, win them to the Lord

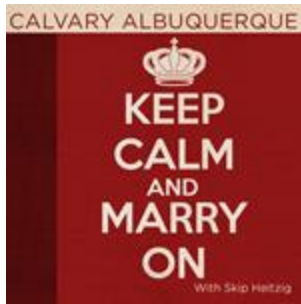
Publications referenced: *Washington Post*

Figures referenced: Zig Ziglar

Cross references: Deuteronomy 22:10, Proverbs 31:30, John 3:16, Acts 5:29, 1 Corinthians 7:12-16, 1 Peter 1:23

Topic: Marriage

Keywords: unequal yoke, husband, wife, saved, unsaved, unbeliever, believer, marriage, dating, divorce



SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	Are You Building a House or a Home?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Psalms 127
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2419

MESSAGE SUMMARY

John Henry Jowett wrote, "Anyone can build a house: We need the Lord for the creation of a home." There's a huge difference between the construction of these two: One is built with earthly materials and anxious thoughts; the other is the result of strong relationships. As we conclude our series today, consider how you're planning for the future.

DETAILED NOTES

XLIX. Introduction

- . Five months in this series
- A. Priorities, "Managing your life according to what's most important, rather than what's most urgent"
 - 0. Henry Ford
 - . Weakness in most all humans: want to do too many things at one time
 - a. Wake up and immediately think of dozens of things
 - b. Get up and go for a run, to think about what is most important
 - 1. Looking to the future, make a choice, what will our priorities be regarding our families/marriages?
 - 2. Things you might think are important
 - . Your job
 - a. Your status
 - b. Schooling
 - 3. Things far more important than these
 - . Article on Harry Truman, 33rd President
 - . 1,300 letters written by President Truman to his wife
 - i. Every day they were apart, President Truman would write a letter to his wife
 - ii. Despite all of the important things he had to do, he thought it absolutely important to sit down every day and write a letter to his wife
 - a. A couple in Atlanta, GA
 - . Tickets to *My Fair Lady* on Broadway
 - i. Empty seat
 - ii. Husband died
 - iii. That relationship deteriorated a bit

- L. A short psalm packed full of truth
 - . Hebrew poetry
 - 0. Not important to rhyme words
 - 1. Rhyme thoughts
 - 2. Usually a statement then a contrasting statement
- A. Psalm 127 has 2 parts
 - 0. First section describes the self-initiating labor—living for temporal things
 - 1. Second section deals with the home life, marriage, and family as God pours out His blessing
 - 2. First part priorities are projects and property
 - 3. Second part focuses on people
 - 4. First part is the wrong focus, second part is the right focus
 - 5. A house built on vanity versus a home built on values
 - 6. You can build up projects for temporal profit, or you can build up people for both temporal and eternal profit
- B. A song assents—songs for the upward climb
 - 0. 15 of them, Psalms 120 –134
 - 1. Used in two ways
 - . Corporately as a nation
 - a. Liturgically for the priesthood
 - 2. Corporately – every year, three times per year, the Jewish people would hike to Jerusalem for feasts, as they would walk/climb up to Jerusalem they would sing these 15 Psalms of assent as a family and congregation
 - 3. Liturgically –15 steps in the temple from the court of the women to the court of the Israelites. The Levites would stand on those steps and sing out the Psalms of assent
- C. "Of Solomon"
 - 0. Son of King David
 - 1. Qualified to write about building
 - 2. Qualified to write about families (700 wives)
- D. House built on vanity
 - 0. Repetition of the word "vain"
 - 1. Book of Ecclesiastes
 - . Used the word vanity or vain 35 times
 - a. "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity" Nothing more empty or futile than this
 - b. A life without God is empty
 - 2. What house is he talking about? Probably the Temple (house of the Lord)
 - . King David made Jerusalem the capitol of the nation
 - a. King David's dream was to build the house of the Lord
 - b. God did not let King David build his house
 - c. God promised that David's son, Solomon would build the house of the Lord
 - d. Both King David and King Solomon were builders, they had a deep drive to build, be successful, preserve
 - e. As soon as Solomon became king he began building the house of the Lord

- . Treaty with King Hiram (see 1 Kings 5 and 2 Chronicles 2)
 - i. Stone and wood in exchange for Israel oil, wine, and wheat
 - ii. 30,000 woodcutters
 - iii. 183,000 workers
 - iv. 80,000 stone cutters
 - v. 3,000 supervisors
 - vi. 7 and a half years building the house of the Lord
 - vii. 13 years building his own house
 - f. Dedication of the temple in Jerusalem
 - . The Lord told Solomon that if the people ever turned away from following Him "this house" would become a "heap of ruins" (see 1 Kings 9, ESV)
 - i. Unless the Lord builds the house, it is vanity
- E. "Unless the Lord guards the city..." v. 1
 - 0. City with walls must be guarded
 - 1. Solomon was not only a builder, he was a guarder
 - 2. The gate of Solomon
 - 3. Solomon fell away from God
 - 4. The kings that came after him broke the covenant with God
 - 5. God stopped protecting the city and allowed it to be destroyed
 - 6. In 586 BC, invaded and destroyed by Babylon
- F. These verses could be addressed today to the workaholic
- G. Article in *Scientific American* magazine by Urie Brofenbrenner
 - 0. Examined American culture
 - 1. Problems facing American families
 - 2. Warning of forces that are causing the family in American to deteriorate: "The demands of a job that claim meal times, evenings, and weekends as well as days, the trips and moves necessary to get ahead or simply hold one's own, the increasing time spent commuting, entertaining, going out, meeting social and community obligations, all of these produce a situation in which a child often spends more time with a passive babysitter than with a participating parent."
 - 3. We all applaud hard-working entrepreneurial parents
 - 4. Be careful that our labor and our watching is not in vain—work on people, not just property—have the right value system
- H. Forced, artificial lengthening of the day, v. 2
 - 0. Managing time, push so much into 24 hours
 - 1. Build all day long, guard all evening long, toss and turn all night long
 - 2. Living Bible translation "...fearing that you'll starve to death"
 - 3. You're busy, but your bummed out; "eating the bread of sorrows"
 - . 1851 biggest marvel was steam
 - . World's fair in London
 - i. Gadgets on display
 - ii. First prize given to greatest machine
 - . The winning machines had 7,000 moving parts all powered by steam

- a. The machine did nothing, it just moved and made noise—no practical value—lots of activity, no accomplishment
- 4. Spinning plates—busy, bummed out, lots of activity, no accomplishment
- 5. The gift of sleep
 - . Go home, stop work, get sleep
 - a. Sabbath made for man (see Mark 2:27)
 - b. There's a time to quit, not to worry and worship your work
- 6. Biography: George Lucas, producer of *Star Wars*
 - . Portrayed as a young multimillionaire
 - a. Restless, unfulfilled
 - b. Frustrated
 - c. Not having a good relationship with his wife
 - d. Not enjoying life, but can't quit
 - e. Built an empire while his home is in shambles
 - f. The wrong focus
- 7. A house built on vanity—vain, vain, vain
- I. Behold, stop and look, "Hey, check this out"
 - . A home built on values—focus on people
 - . Turn from making a living to enjoying your life
 - a. Three words
 - . Lord, mentioned three times, implied three times
 - i. Womb, wife
 - ii. Children
 - iii. That describes a home, core family relationships with God at the center
 - b. Strip away everything else in life down to the irreducible minimum, you would have one thing left: relationships
 - . A relationship with God, or not
 - i. Relationships with people, good or bad
 - . Our vertical relationship with God spills over and effects our horizontal relationship with people in a positive way
 - a. Hudson Taylor, missionary to China said, "If your father, and mother, brother, and sister, if the very cat and dog in your house are not happier for you being a Christian, it's a question whether you really are."
 - c. The value is "God-centered" relationships
- a. God—given heritage
 - . Children are a heritage from the Lord
 - a. "A baby is a digestive apparatus with a loud noise at one end and no responsibility at the other end"
 - b. Kids (people, children, relationships) are the only earthly possession you can take to heaven
 - c. Some people, at this stage of our history, might dispute having more kids

- 0. There's enough people on earth already
 - 1. We live in such a dark, dangerous world, it's probably not the best time to have kids
 - . There's terrorism
 - i. Threat of war in Middle East
 - ii. Possibility of economic problems here at home
 - iii. Don't know what's going to happen in the next 4 years here at home
 - 2. These reasons are exactly why we should be having kids—this world needs the kind of children that Christians produce
 - 3. What if the parents of Elijah thought that way?
 - 4. What if the parents of Moses worried about Pharaoh killing babies?
 - 5. God's plan, a baby is going to be born, Jesus Christ
- LI. Closing of this message and the series
- . David wanted to build the Lord a house
 - 0. He amassed finances
 - 1. He amassed supplies
 - 2. The Lord said, "No, you're not going to build me a house..." (see 2 Samuel 7 and 1 Kings 5)
 - 3. The Lord promised that He would build him (David) a house
 - . Was the Lord speaking of a material house?
 - a. No, a dynasty of sons that will rule Israel and bring the son Jesus Christ
 - b. God will build a relational thing—a home
 - A. Three principles to walk away with
 - 0. God's best gifts are people, not property or projects
 - 1. No amount of human effort or toil can accomplish as much as God's blessing
 - 2. Godly relationships will turn your house into a home
 - B. What are your priorities? Property? Projects? Or, People?
 - C. Prospector's story, "All the gold I can carry..."
 - D. What are you willing to lose to hold onto something that is perishing
 - E. "If you are building your life apart from God, it's vanity; If you're adding worry on top of that, it's insanity; But if you are building upward to God and outward to people, that's a valuable commodity."

Publications referenced: *Scientific American*

Figures referenced: Henry Ford, Harry Truman, Urie Brofenbrenner, George Lucas, Hudson Taylor,

Cross references: 2 Samuel 7, 1 Kings 5, 2 Chronicles 2, Mark 2:27

Topic: Family

Keywords: marriage, priorities, children, family, vanity, vain, guard, home, house, heritage